

Relationship Between Perception of Father Involvement and the Tendency to Become Victims of Dating Violence Among Adolescent Girls

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to determine the relationship between perceptions of father involvement with the tendency to become victims of dating violence in an adolescent girl. This research is quantitative research with a correlational research design. The number of respondents in this study is 131 people with the accidental sampling technique. Research data is collected with Dating Violence Scale and Father Involvement Scale. The analysis technique used is *Spearman's Rho*. The result showed a significant negative relationship between perceptions of father involvement with the tendency to become victims of dating violence in an adolescent girl. The coefficient value obtained based on the correlation test of this research is -0,173. The result of the study showed that the higher the perception of father involvement, the lower the tendency to become victims of dating violence in adolescent girls.

Keywords: Dating Violence, Father Involvement, Adolescent Girl.

1. INTRODUCTION

Adolescence is a period of transition between childhood and adulthood that includes changes in the biological, cognitive, and social-emotional. In adolescence, a person begins to establish relationships with other people outside of family members and initiate interactions with peers. Adolescence starts from 10 to 13 years and ends at 18 to 22 years [1]. The widespread adolescent relationships with male and female peers make adolescents recognize romantic relationships. The existence of attraction to the opposite sex makes many teenagers start relationships. Hurlock suggests that the developmental task of adolescence is to achieve a new, more mature relationship pattern with the opposite sex and prepare to enter the world of marriage [2].

Dating behavior in adolescence is believed to play an essential role in developing identity and intimacy. In addition, dating behavior can help adolescents to be able to know the opposite sex in a pattern of romantic

relationships that will help them form relationships at the next level to enter marriage in adulthood. Research shows that adolescents' positive impacts from dating relationships are gaining enjoyment, obtaining togetherness, forming identity, and learning to have romantic relationships [1].

The process that two individuals experience in their relationship can strengthen their closeness. Nonetheless, closeness in a relationship does not guarantee a healthy relationship. A sense of belonging to one another can make relationships vulnerable to over-control and a tendency to violence. The phenomenon of violence in dating or dating violence frequently exists as a part of the story in a relationship. Violence in dating can harm the social development of individuals. Research conducted by Mason et al. shows that dating violence negatively impacts the development process, such as the emergence of individual behavior, lack of ability to communicate and socialize. Then the negative impact on psychological aspects such as lack of self-control,

domineering behavior appears, and low self-esteem [3].

The University of Michigan Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Center in Ann Arbor defines dating violence as the deliberate use of tactics and coercion to gain power and control over a partner, such as threatening, beating, raping, and so on [4]. Both men and women can become victims in cases of dating violence. Nevertheless, several cases show that women have a greater chance of becoming victims of dating violence.

The National Commission on Violence Against Women [5] released several field data related to the phenomenon of dating violence. In 2017, KOMNAS Perempuan reported that there were 2,171 cases of dating violence. In 2018, KOMNAS Perempuan reported 1,873 cases of dating violence. In 2019, KOMNAS Perempuan reported that there were 2,073 cases of dating violence. In 2020, KOMNAS Perempuan reported that the highest order of violence after violence against wives was violence in dating. There were 1,309 cases of violence in dating with the forms of violence that occurred, namely physical, sexual, psychological, and economic violence. The highest number of victims who complained directly to KOMNAS Perempuan were in the age range of 19-24 years and the range of high school education. [5].

Cases of dating violence are no longer rare in adolescence age. In general, adolescents have less experience in romantic relationships than adults. The lack of experience can cause adolescents to be less objective in assessing whether or not a relationship is healthy. For example, adolescents interpret possessive behavior as a sign of love and attention from their partners [4].

One of the dating violence cases in Makassar City was reported by the Anging Mammiri Women's Solidarity Community in January 2021. The case began when the victim with the initial D began to experience unpleasant treatment from her boyfriend, the initial MBA. The perpetrator often forced the victim to do sexual intercourse. These pressures made the victim decide to end her relationship with the perpetrator. The perpetrator then hacked the victim's social media account and made her join an online prostitution group. In addition, the victim's cellphone number is also suspected of having been distributed by the perpetrators. The victim then decided to visit the perpetrator. When they met, the perpetrator forced the victim again to have intercourse. The victim who refused the action had abusive treatment from the

perpetrator. This made the victim decide to go to the Anging Mammiri Women's Solidarity office to seek assistance and legal proceedings [6].

Women who are victims of dating violence are considered the ones who can easily end their relationship than victims of violence who are bound by marriage. This can occur for several reasons, such as the parties involved do not have children, do not have a common property, and are not economically dependent on each other [7]. When the relationship is no longer constructive and even detrimental to the individuals involved, one of the decisions that can be taken is to leave the relationship. Rusbult & Zembrodt [8] suggest that individuals tend to give specific responses when undergoing an unhappy relationship, including ending the relationship.

Many of the victims of dating violence are still trapped and even choose to stay in their relationship. Victims of dating violence tend to find it difficult to leave their violent relationships for various reasons; one of the reasons is the domination of the perpetrator. Research [7] regarding the perspective of women who are victims of dating violence towards violence cases shows that victims view dating violence as an individual problem. The domination of the perpetrator makes it difficult for the victim to seek help and does not dare to leave her partner. In addition, research conducted [9] suggests that when a person tries to avoid acts of dating violence, it increases the likelihood of receiving harsher actions. The positive correlation between the frequency of violence and avoidance behavior resulted in the impact on the victim, such as depression, anxiety, and alcohol use.

The cycle of dating violence can occur continuously with the same pattern and stage, and the longer it lasts, the worse it gets. The dating violence cycle includes the tension building phase, the explosion phase, and the honeymoon phase [10]. This cycle will continue until one dare to decide to leave the relationship. Unfortunately, despite experiencing various losses, sometimes victims will accept and forgive acts of violence from the perpetrators. This is in line with research from Horwitz & Skiff [11] that 40% to 70% of women victims of dating violence will maintain their relationship and even continue to marriage. One of the reasons the victim survives is because she does not have to worry about terrors coming from her partner when the victim leaves her partner.

Violence in dating can be influenced by various factors, one of which is a factor from the family,

especially parents. [12] suggest that closeness to parents and social skills possessed by adolescents can protect adolescents against violence in dating. When parents can provide information about healthy dating behavior, then the social skills of the child will be formed to avoid violent behavior in dating relationships

The role of the family, especially parents, has a function as a controller of actions and the building of children's character. Parents are expected to provide examples of behavior to their children directly or indirectly that children can provide these behaviors in their environment [13]. Family plays an essential role in individual character building. Various emotional problems of children that the parents do not quite notice can provoke other problems at a later stage of development. If violence has been carried out from an early age, children will behave in violent behavior as a natural thing to do in their social life.

The role of parents, including fathers, is not only limited to having positive interactions with children but also liking their development, being close and comfortable, and understanding children [14]. Father's involvement has five aspects: positive activity engagement, warm-responsiveness, control, indirect care, and process responsibility. The involvement of fathers in parenting can be reviewed through the child's understanding of fathers' role in parenting based on five aspects of father involvement [16].

The role of fathers in parenting is no less important than the role of the mother, from babies to children growing up. Kume suggests that a father's involvement in child care will create a positive effect compared to only mother parenting [17]. If both parents carry out parenting, the effect will be more significant. Katorski also suggests that a positive relationship between fathers and children will positively influence their psychological development, while a negative relationship can influence in the form of psychological pressure on children [18].

The first relationship pattern with the opposite sex is first carried out by individuals with their parents; thus, fathers can be used as role models for their daughters in finding a partner. Kume suggests that father involvement significantly impacts partner selection when the child is an adult. Girls who accept and can interpret the love from their fathers tend to avoid unhealthy dating relationships [17]. Therefore, fathers need to provide their children warmth, affection, nurturing, and guidance.

The role of fathers in parenting can influence how much the tendency of girls to become victims of dating violence. When the father is used to doing violent behavior in the house, mainly directed at the mother, the child will interpret this behavior as usual. Children will be more tolerant when accepting violent behavior from their partners [4].

Culture in Indonesia is thick with patriarchal culture, where men are seen as holders of power compared to women. This also has an impact on the division of roles in life. Men are considered unnecessary to contribute to domestic tasks that are the responsibility of women. In the family, a mother plays a role to take care of the child, while the father plays more roles outside of the home to earn a living. This hinders the role of fathers to be actively involved in child care. As a result, children and adolescents sometimes feel strange about the presence of fathers in their care [19]. Research also shows that most fathers are involved with their children's lives in the form of responsibilities, but not as warm fathers who spend time with their children [20]. This kind of parenting system shows that the role of fathers is often lacking in child care.

Indonesia is included in the top 10 countries with a fatherless parenting system or father hunger, which lacks father involvement in child development affairs and is only physically present. The lack of father involvement in parenting causes a gap in child care due to the lack of a father's role. In fact, in reality, presenting ideal parenting requires the main role of fathers and mothers who pay attention to the development and growth of children as a whole [20].

Based on the description that has been explained above, it seems that three symptoms emerge. The first symptom is that relationships can have a negative impact on adolescent development. One of the negative impacts of relationships is the tendency of teenagers to be involved in dating relationships. Data shows that many victims of violent dating are trapped and even choose to stay in the relationship. This shows the second symptom, namely the number of victims of dating violence who are still trapped or persist in unhealthy relationships. One of the factors that can influence adolescents to be trapped in violent dating relationships is parenting in the family. Fathers and mothers are expected to be involved in parenting and understand healthy relationships with children. However, the data show that the role of fathers is still lacking in child care. This shows the third symptom; namely, there is a tendency for only one parent figure

to be actively involved during the parenting period. The third symptom then raises a problem that the lack of a father's role in parenting can impact adolescent development, one of which is in establishing relationships with the opposite sex. This makes researchers interested in further study by raising the relationship between perceptions of father involvement and the tendency to become victims of violence in dating among adolescent girls.

The hypothesis of this study is H_0 = There is no relationship between perceptions of father involvement with victims of violence in adolescent girls and H_1 = There is a relationship between perceptions of father involvement with the tendency to become victims of violence in adolescent girls.

2. METHOD

The variables in this study are the tendency to become victims of dating violence as the dependent variable and the perception of father involvement as the independent variable. The tendency to become a victim of dating violence is the tendency of individuals to accept acts of violence from their partners in a dating relationship. Meanwhile, the perception of father involvement is defined as the child's understanding of a father's involvement in parenting.

The population and samples used in this study were adolescents who had been dating and were raised by their parents in Makassar City. The sampling technique used in this study is the accidental technique. Determination of the number of samples based on the Lemeshow formula because the population in this study is unknown. Based on this formula, it can be seen that the number of samples in this study is at least 100 samples.

The dating violence scale in this study refers to the three forms of dating violence proposed [4]. The three forms of dating violence are psychological violence, sexual violence, and physical violence. The Father Involvement Scale is a scale compiled by Theresia Arief [15] with reference to five aspects of father involvement based on Pleck's theory [16]. Data analysis in this study is a simple linear regression analysis with the help of the IBM SPSS Statics 25 program.

3. RESULT

The correlation test used is the Spearman's Rho correlation test or non-parametric test. Value of Sig. (2-tailed) obtained is 0.048 and this value is smaller

than the standard significance of <0.05 . This means a correlation between the variable tendency to become victims of dating violence with the variable perception of father involvement. Nevertheless, the level of correlation between the two variables is included in the very weak category, which is indicated by the correlation coefficient value of only -0.173.

Based on the three forms of dating violence, only one form correlates with the variable perception of father involvement. The form that has a correlation is sexual with obtained Sig. (2-tailed) of 0.000, which is smaller than the standard significance of <0.05 . It is also known that of the five aspects of father involvement, only one aspect correlates with the tendency to become victims of dating violence. The aspect that has a correlation is indirect care with obtained Sig. (2-tailed) was 0.006, which is smaller than the standard significance of <0.05 .

4. DISCUSSION

Based on the hypothesis test results, it can be seen that H_0 is rejected and H_1 is accepted. This means that there is a correlation between perceptions of father involvement and the tendency to become victims of dating violence in adolescent girls. Although there is a correlation, the correlation between the two variables is categorized as very weak. This shows that other factors can influence the level of the tendency to become victims of dating violence in adolescent girls, such as peers.

Data analysis conducted in this study shows a negative relationship between perceptions of father involvement and the tendency to become victims of dating violence. This is in line with the theory [4] that parents are role models for their children. Children will learn values, beliefs, and behaviors based on what they obtain in the family. If adolescent girls have been exposed to violent behavior since they were young in the family, they will get used to the violent behavior they receive. This can make it easier for adolescent girls to tolerate violent behavior from their partners and view these behaviors as normal things. [19] also suggest that fathers have an important role in the psychosocial development of children in adolescence. Fathers play a role in setting an example for children, assisting children thus children do not fall into risky relationships and behavior, being counselors who can accompany the children and become friends for children, and become excellent communicators to create openness between fathers and children.

Research [17] found that father involvement significantly impacts partner selection when an adult child. Girls who accept and can interpret the love from

their fathers tend to avoid unhealthy dating relationships. This is also evidenced by research conducted [21], which shows that women victims of dating violence have low closeness to their fathers.

This study indicates a negative relationship between perceptions of father involvement and the tendency to become victims of dating violence in adolescent girls. Nonetheless, the level of correlation between the two variables is in the very weak category. The results of this study are supported by the results of previous research conducted by Damayanti (2018) that there is a negative correlation between father involvement and violent behavior in adolescents dating relationships. Another study conducted by Rangkuti and Herningtyas (2016) also found that father involvement has a significant negative effect on dating violence by 2.4% and the rest is influenced by external factors, such as peers.

This is shown by research conducted [22] that there is a correlation between peer conformity and communication effectiveness in the family with violence in dating. Based on these studies, it is known that conformity with peers influences dating style in adolescents. This can be one of the causes of the relationship between the variable perception of father involvement with the tendency to become victims of dating violence is classified as very weak.

5. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of data processing and discussion using statistical methods, it can be concluded from this study that there is a significant negative correlation between perceptions of father involvement and the tendency to become victims of dating violence in adolescent girls. The correlation coefficient shows that the higher the perception of father involvement, the lower the tendency to become victims of dating violence, and vice versa. Although there is a correlation, the correlation between the two variables is categorized as very weak. This indicates that other factors can influence the tendency to become victims of dating violence in adolescent girls.

As for the form of dating violence that has a significant correlation with the variable perception of father involvement is a form of sexual violence. This indicates that the higher the perception of father involvement, the lower the tendency for adolescent girls to experience sexual violence. Meanwhile, the aspect of father involvement that has a significant correlation with the tendency to become victims of dating violence is the indirect care aspect. This shows

that the higher the indirect care aspect of father involvement, the lower the tendency to become victims of dating violence in adolescent girls.

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