

# The Effect of Abusive Behavior on Insecurity of Early-Adult Female Victims

Putri Apriliani<sup>1\*</sup> Sitawaty Tjiptorini<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Faculty of Psychology, University Muhammadiyah Prof. DR. Hamka, Jakarta 12130, Indonesia

\*Corresponding author. Email: putri.avril09@gmail.com

## ABSTRACT

Abusive behavior in a relationship is an act of violence committed by the perpetrator to the victim, both physically and psychologically. This study aims to examine the abusive behavior of female victims in early adulthood, which affects feelings of insecurity (insecurity) due to the treatment of abusive behavior. This study uses quantitative methods using data collection techniques in the form of a questionnaire. There were 103 females in early adulthood (20-39 years old) participated in this online survey study. The measuring instrument used in this study uses an adaptation of the Conflict Scales 2-Shortform (CTS2-S) developed by Straus (1996). Before distributing the online questionnaire with a sample of N=103, the researcher conducted a tryout with a sample of N=30 for the adaptation of the CTS2-S scale. Then the researcher distributed an online questionnaire with a sample of N = 103 from the adaptation of the CTS2-S Scale from Straus (1996) to measure abusive behavior. Then the Relationship Scale Questionnaire Scale from Griffin and Bartholomew (1994) to measure insecurity. The results of data analysis showed that the impact of abusive behavior had a significant positive effect on insecurity with a coefficient of  $R = .548$  and  $R \text{ square} = .300$  ( $p < 0.1$ ). Means, abusive behavior has a significant positive impact of 30% on the insecurity of early adult women and has other factors of 70%, such as anxiety, depression, poor communication. That is, if abusive behavior increases, there is an increase in insecurity in female victims of early adulthood.

**Keywords:** rude behavior, insecurity, early adulthood

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Abusive behavior in a relationship is a problem that often arises in a relationship among early adults lately. Abusive behavior is also torturous behavior that can threaten individuals or couples who are victims of a relationship that is officially bound or still in a relationship (Lilly, 2012). Abusive behavior in physical abuse such as slapping, kicking and hitting can injure the partner and cause minor or even severe injuries [1]

The National Commission for Women, Erdianto [2] reported that there were 16,217 reported cases of violence in dating relationships [2]. Based on a 2013 global study conducted by the WHO, said as many as 42% of women have experienced various forms in their lives at the hands of their own partners causing injuries [15].

Early adult women who experience violence, they feel betrayed, feel failed, feel guilty, and ashamed, also these women feel unloved, helpless, always vulnerable and exposed to physical and psychological illnesses.

Violent behavior found in a relationship in Indonesia is most common among adult women ranging from the age of 20 to 39 years (Erdianto, 2016) [9].

Where early adult women with that age are being gradually in the psychosocial stages of intimacy and isolation. Adult age usually occurs from 18 years to 40 years. In which biological and psychological changes have occurred, it is also accompanied by reduced reproductive abilities (Hurlock, E. B, 1991) [12].

Then according to Santrock (2012) the age of 18-19 years enters into a period of adult development where the age of 18 to 19 years is the age at the stage of heading or it can be said to be in the category of early adulthood [13].

At the adult stage every woman has a challenge in her life and wants to create and have a more serious relationship with a partner of the opposite sex, such as a challenge to resolve or open conflict. This means that they are or have experienced a transition from adolescence to adulthood with the changes that occur.

The Journal of Women's Health (2018) or commonly referred to as Women's Health says, victims of abuse have a great risk of experiencing excessive anxiety, becoming depressed, consuming illegal drugs, there is even a high sense of suicide and reduced feelings of security towards

their partner [14]. One of the causes of the formation of abusive behavior is having a history of violence in the past. According to Gelles & Straus (1975) individuals who previously had a history of violence such as in childhood, this became a big trigger for them to support that violence is one of the right ways to atone for their mistakes [17]

The negative impact of this violence is that it can have an impact on the mental health of the victim in various psychological symptoms and types such as anxiety, depression, psychosis, and loss of feeling of security (Stephai, 2003) [3].

According Suarto (2009) The reason for the occurrence of violent behavior in relationships where most of the victims are women is because there are often differences in treatment between men and women in the stigma of the public. There is also a patriarchal ideology which is a perspective that places men as a higher center than women [8].

In some studies of abusive behavior, it is more focused on acts of physical violence. This minimal research on psychological violence makes a person less aware of forms of verbal or psychological violence (temple, et all, 2006) [5] Based on the events and phenomena that have been described in the background of the research above, the problem formulation of this research is: "Is there an influence of Abusive Behavior on the Insecurity of Early Adult Female Victims?". The research objectives that will be analyzed are: "To test whether there is an Influence of Abusive Behavior on the Insecurity of Early Adult Female Victims?"

The benefits of this research are that this research can also be a suggestion and input for female victims who experience abusive behavior that causes insecurity for female victims of early adulthood.

## 2. METHOD

### 2.1. Design

This study uses a quantitative type which is a study that analyzes using numbers and statistics, in this study using quantitative methods (Hermawan, 2018) [18]. Quantitative research is used as the method for this research, with statistics and analysis on a definite and accurate method with the results of SPSS analysis.

The technique used in this research is non-probability sampling where not all of the population can be sampled. The criteria for the sample who filled out the questionnaire were women aged 20-39 years who had or are currently experiencing abusive treatment. Incidental sampling is also used by distributing online questionnaires so that anyone who coincidentally fills out a questionnaire and meets the criteria can be a sample.

### 2.2. Participants

The samples in this study were early adult women with an age range of 20-39 years around Jakarta. Catahu 2020

reported that DKI Jakarta had the highest cases of violence against women, namely 65% of cases.

The population in this study has characteristics that are applied by researchers, namely early adult women who have or are in a relationship marked or colored by abusive behavior.

### 2.3. Measure

On the insecurity variable the measuring instrument used is the Relationship Scale Questionnaire developed by Griffin and Bartholomew (1994) with a total of 18 items and shows Cronbach's Alpha reliability value of .840 [6].

In the study of abusive behavior, researchers used an adaptation of the measuring instrument proposed by Straus et al. (1996) namely the adaptation of the Conflict Scales 2-Shortform (CTS2-S) scale and the results of the reliability test using Cronbach's Alpha resulted in .957 and the results of the validity test of 16 items were declared valid [4].

Researchers used an adaptation of the Conflict Scales 2-Shortform (CTS2-S) scale by Sraus, et all (1996). In the process of adapting, the researcher first reversed the statement from being a perpetrator to being a victim, because the original statement was from the CTS2-S scale before being adapted. is the perpetrator [4].

Then the researcher translated the statement from English to Indonesian using google translate and checked by the supervisor as the supervisor of the English Club of the Faculty of Psychology. The questionnaire was distributed online using google forms, filled out by 30 early adult women according to the established criteria. The results of the reliability test using Cronbach's Alpha yielded .957 and the results of the validity test of 16 items were declared valid.

## 3. RESULT

### 3.1. Model Summary

In the Summary Model, the R result is .548 while the R Square value is .300. Which means it shows that the abusive behavior variable has an influence on insecurity with a value of 30% and 70% is influenced by other variables. Based on these results, the abusive behavior variable has a significant impact on the insecurity variable.

**Table 1** Model Summary

Model	R	R Square
1	.548a	.300

### 3.2. Anova

The results of the Anova Table below the F Analysis are 2144,220 which has a significant value of .000 where if the P value < 0.01 which means it is significant. This leads the researcher to accept Ha and reject Ho and F signify significant.

**Table 2 ANOVA**

	Model	F	Sig.
1	Regression	214.220	.000b
	Residual		
	Total		

### 3.3. Coefficient

**Table 3 Regression Coefficient**

Model		Unstandardized Coefficient		Standard Coefficient Beta	Sig.
		B	Std. Error		
1	(Constant)	25.137	2.417		.000
	Abusive IV	.363	.055	.548	.000

Based on unstandardized analysis, the coefficient of Beta value is .548 with a probability value of .000 with a significant level of  $<0.05$ . This shows that the level of insecurity has a significant positive effect (as seen from Beta) on abusive behavior.

Based on the results of the regression test above, then:  $H_a$  (there is an influence of abusive behavior on insecurity in early adult women) is accepted and  $H_o$  (there is no influence of abusive behavior on insecurity in early adult women) is rejected.

## 4. DISCUSSION

This study was conducted on 103 respondents in early adult women who were suspected of receiving abusive treatment in the Jakarta area. This study aims to determine whether abusive behavior in insecurity has an influence on early adult women being vulnerable to being victims of abusive acts. By using a quantitative approach, this research produces definite and accurate data.

Before conducting the thesis research, the researcher adapted the CTS2-S scale from Straus (1996) with a tryout of distributing questionnaires via online with a sample of  $N=30$  on early adult female abuse victims and the results obtained Cronbach's alpha of .957. Furthermore, the researchers conducted a study after adapting the CTS2-S scale from Straus (1996) with a sample of  $N = 103$  respondents to see the effect of abusive behavior on victims that affect insecurity against early adult women [4].

Based on the results of research with regression hypothesis testing the influence of abusive behavior on victims that affects insecurity against early adult women is that there is a significant influence between abusive behavior and insecurity.

This can be seen from the abusive behavior data that affects the R Square insecurity of .300 or 30% with a significant level of .000 ( $P < 0.01$ ) which means it is significant. In addition, the result of the correlation coefficient between

abusive behavior R is .548 with a significant level of .000 ( $P < 0.01$ ) which means it is significant. So, it can be interpreted that the higher the abusive behavior, the higher the level of insecurity in early adult female victims.

According to Straus, et al (1996) said that acts of violence in relationships often occur because of a large conflict [4]. When facing a problem or conflict, physical, psychological, sexual and even emotional violence makes it possible to use it. Meanwhile, they also use negotiations as a medium to resolve conflicts in a healthy manner. Therefore, all kinds of methods used by both parties can determine the quality of the relationship they live (Kim, et al, 2015) [19].

The result of the correlation coefficient between abusive behavior that affects insecurity has a significant positive value. So, it can be interpreted that the higher the abusive behavior, the higher the level of insecurity in early adult female victims. Abusive behavior can occur due to conflict between partners, where at the age of early adulthood they definitely want to create a more serious relationship with partners of the opposite sex, such as resolving conflicts in a healthy and open manner.

In this case, a phenomenon is also found where individuals who have experienced abusive actions in the past are likely to get abusive actions in the future. Because environmental factors and immature individual mindsets also cause abusive actions to occur again, also their sense of security has decreased which makes it difficult to have a sense of trust and security in others.

Another result studied by Yarkovsky (2016) states that insecure attachment can shape individuals to have a relationship with difficulty controlling emotions, where this relates to the occurrence of individuals to become victims or perpetrators of abusive acts [16]. Individuals who are included in the insecure section have a difficult tendency to separate from their partner even though it is an unhealthy relationship.

The limitations of this study are the respondents which have an impact on the generalization of the results. Where the research sample that was successfully obtained by researchers was more at the age of 20 to 25 years, while the initial plan of the researcher was to obtain respondents with the criteria of 20-39 years. Therefore, the results obtained are more directed at the age range of 20 to 25 years, the rest there are only a few respondents who are in the age range of 26 to 39 years.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

It can be concluded that early adult women who receive abusive treatment can affect the level of insecurity in dealing with conflict and have a low sense of security, so they tend to experience violent treatment in a relationship. They feel unable to convey what they are going through in their relationship that can have an impact on their mental health. Some even think that abusive behavior that occurs in their relationship is considered a natural act on both sides of the relationship.

Then the impact it has on victims of abusive behavior is that it can make victims have no more courage to fight their partners and control and also create a romantic relationship, so they tend to look weak and continue to be victims of abuse in a subsequent relationship.

In addition, the worst impact that will happen to the victim is the possibility that the individual victim has no way out in this relationship because they consider themselves and their partners to be worthless individuals, in the end they are trapped in relationships that are always marked by abusive in it.

## 6. SUGGESTIONS

### 6.1. Theoretical Suggestion

The researcher would like to give some suggestions for future researchers who are interested in using abusive and insecurity behavior variables with participants who have different and varied backgrounds, for example, such as types of experiences of abusive violence in the past, depression variables, individuals with ambivalent behavior, as well as Low confidence in partner and self.

Then, further researchers are also expected to search for the population and sample widely so that the results are in accordance with what the researchers expect.

### 6.2. Practical Suggestion

For individuals who are currently or have been in an abusive relationship, it is expected that the importance of having a sense of security in building a romantic relationship. A sense of security and trust can be built by using a healthy and honest conflict resolution method. Understand how valuable a quality relationship is so that individuals feel valued and respect each other between partners in romantic relationships.

The existence of discussion is to resolve conflicts in a healthy manner and to know each partner to exchange thoughts and feelings with each other objectively. Also avoid partners who have experienced abusive acts before because there is a tendency for individuals who have experienced or committed abusive acts to repeat themselves.

## REFERENCES

- [1] Jackson, N.A. (2007). *Encyclopedia of Domestic Violence*. USA: Taylor & Francis Group, LLC.
- [2] Erdianto, K. (2015). *Komnas Perempuan Mencatat 16.217 Kasus Kekerasan terhadap Perempuan pada 2015*. (B. Galih, Ed.) <https://nasional.kompas.com/read/2016/03/07/17453241/>.
- [3] Stephanie Whitson; Mona El-Sheikh. (2003). Marital conflict and health. *Processes and protective factors*, 8(3), 0-312. doi:10.1016/s1359-1789(01)00067-2
- [4] Straus, M.A., Hamby, S. L., Boney-McCoy, S., & Sugarman, D. B. (1996). The revised conflict tactics scales (CTS2): Development and preliminary psychometric data. *Journal of Family Issues*, 17, 283-316. /doi.org/10.1177/019251396017003001
- [5] Temple, J. R., Choi, H. J., Hecht, M., Miller-Day, M., Stuart, G.L., Brem, M., & Woldfor Clevenger, C. (2016). Psychological abuse, mental health, and acceptance of dating violence among adolescence. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 30, 1-6. DOI: 10.1016/j.jadohealth.2016.03.034
- [6] Griffin, D. W ., Bartholomew, K. (1994). *The Metaphysis of ermawan, H. (2018). Metode Kuantitatif untuk Riset Bidang Kepariwisata*. . Open Science Framework.
- [7] Lilly, H. M. (2012). *Teen Mental Health Dating Violence*. New York, NY 10010: The Rosen Publishing Groups, Inc.
- [8] Sunarto. (2009). *Televisi, Kekerasan, & Perempuan*. Jakarta: PT Kompas Media Nusantara. 37-38.
- [9] Erdianto. (2016). Angka Kekerasan dalam Pacaran Tinggi, tetapi UU belum Melindungi. Retrieved from <http://nasional.kompas.com/read/2016/0308/07513391/AngkaKekerasan.dalam.Pacaran.Tinggi.tetapi.UU.Belum.Melindungi>.
- [10] Komisi Nasional Wanita. (2016). Lembar fakta Catatan Tahunan (CATAHU) 2016, kekerasan terhadap wanita meluas: Mendesak negara hadir hentikan kekerasan terhadap wanita di ranah domestik, komunitas dan negara. Diambil kembali dari <http://www.komnaswanita.go.id/wp-content/upload/2016/03/Lembar-Fakta-CatatanTahunan-CATAHU-Komnas-Wanita-2016.pdf>
- [11] Kim, J. S., Weisberg, Y. J., Simpson, J. A., Orina, M. M., Farrell, A.K., & Johnson, W.F. . (2015). Ruining it for both of us: The disruptive role of low-trust partners on conflict resolution in romantic relationship. *Journal of Social Cognition*, 33(5), 520-542. doi.org/10.1521/soco.2015.33.5.520
- [12] Hurlock, E. B. (1991). *Psikologi Perkembangan*. Suatu pendekatan sepanjang rentang kehidupan. hal:246. Jakarta: Erlangga.
- [13] Santrock, J. W. (2012). *Life-Span Development (Perkembangan Masa Hidup)*. hlmn - 6. Jakarta: Erlangga.
- [14] Women's Health. (2018). Am i being Abused? Signs of an unhealthy relationship. Dipetik Desember 5, 2020, dari <https://www.womenshealth.gov/relationship-and-safety/signs-abuse>.

[15] World Health Organization. (2013). Global and regional estimates of violence against women prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence. Retrieved from <https://www.voaindonesia.com/a/who-kekerasan-terhadap-perempuan-epidemi-global/1686309.html>

[16] Yarkovsky, N. (2016). Experiences of dating violence in emerging adult couples : The Role of Attachment Style and Emotion Regulation.

[17] Gelles, R. J., and Straus, M.A. (1975). Physical violence in American Families. (23) : 255.

[18] Hermawan, H. (2018). Metode Kuantitatif untuk Riset Bidang Kepariwisata. . Open Science Framework.

[19] Kim, J. S., Weisberg, Y. J., Simpson, J. A., Orina, M. M., Farrell, A.K., & Johnson, W.F. . (2015). Ruining it for both of us: The disruptive role of low-trust partners on conflict resolution in romantic relationship. *Journal of Social Cognition*, 33(5), 520-542. doi.org/10.1521/soco.2015.33.5.520