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DIFFERENCES IN JUVENILE DELINQUENCY CAUSED BY FATHER ABSENCE

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to discover whether there are differences in juvenile delinquency due to father absence. The absence covered in this study comprises the father's death, parental divorce, and the demands to work away from home. This study was performed to 12-21 years old adolescents who do not live together with their father. The measuring instrument used in this study was the inclination scale of juvenile delinquency on the theory of planned behavior by Fishbein and Ajzen. The data were quantitatively analyzed by using the Kruskal-Wallis. The results of the analysis showed the significance level of $0.012 < 0.05$, implying that there is an inclination of juvenile delinquency among the subjects with father's death, parental divorce, and fathers working away from home. In brief, it can be concluded that there is a significant difference noticed in the three groups of father absence. Moreover, the level of delinquency in male adolescents is higher than in female adolescents.

INTRODUCTION

G. Stanley Hall (1904) believed that adolescence is a period when storm-and-stress happens; that is a period full of desires, conflicts, and changes of moods (Adita, Atamtajani and Nurhidayat, 2019). Adolescence begins at the age of 10 to 12 and ends around the age of 18 to 22 (Agustriyana and Suwanto, 2017). During this period, adolescents will begin to search for their identity independently. The searching further triggers curiosity. Adolescents, in consequences, will try numerous new things and attempt to find things that suit them. This period is also an opportunity for oneself to grow in terms of physical, cognitive, and

psychosocial (Fatimah and Siliwangi, 2017). Modernization, however, has brought some changes in social norms (Nurmala *et al.*, 2019). Adolescents are reportedly undergoing distorted and risky changes, such as drinking alcohol, using drugs, and free sex (N. Sari, 2019).

Juvenile delinquency is a label for teenagers who violate or break the law or are involved in illegal actions (Novasari, 2016). The terms, nevertheless, is a broad concept; from socially unacceptable violations, such as littering, to criminal acts as murders (Septiawan, 2019). Traffic violations, for instance, speeding, are also included in juvenile delinquency. Those delinquencies can be caused by several factors, including internal and external factors (Prasasti, 2017). The internal factors comprise identity crisis and weak self-control. On the other hand, the external factors cover unstable family conditions that may trigger negative attitudes, parental divorce, bad peers, and lousy community or living environment (Lestari, Humaedi, Santoso, & Hasanah, 2017).

Family is believed as the first social environment for every individual (S. Y. Sari, 2019). Parents, furthermore, have significant influences on children, including adolescents (Fevriasanty and Soedirham, 2018), given their roles in controlling their children's attitudes and behavior to avoid juvenile delinquency. Furthermore, a father and a mother as parents bring harmony and balance to the family. Father absence in the family, arguably, brings considerable impacts for children's development. Father absence is further identified as a father's decision not to get involved nor to participate in his children's growth and development (Pamungkas and Abidin, 2018).

Based on the phenomena, father absence in a family is quite implicated in juvenile delinquency behavior. Father absence, including father's death, parental divorce, or fathers working away from home, consequently, brings various responses for the children, especially adolescents. Thus, this study aims to discover whether there are differences in juvenile delinquency inclination caused by father absence, as mention above. Other than that, there has not been much research analyzing the differences in inclination of juvenile delinquency in Indonesia as what is aimed by this study.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Adolescence

Webster's New College Dictionary (1977) defined 'adolescence' as a growing process or a period of life that begins from puberty until adulthood (Kholil, Lubis and Ritonga, 2019). Semantically, 'adolescence' is taken from Latin '*adolescere*,' which means "to grow" or "towards maturity" (Hastuti and Budiarto, 2019). The transition process from childhood to adulthood that happens to teenagers and includes several changes in many aspects, such as in biological aspect, cognitive aspect, and social aspect (Ryoningrat and Herdiyanto, 2019). Adolescent health is

a comprehensive health status, from physical, mental, social, economic, and spiritual (Amka, 2020).

Juvenile Delinquency

Juvenile delinquency is delinquencies done by young people as a pathological symptom caused by social neglect; thus, they develop deviant behavior (Arimbi, 2017). According to Sumiati (2009), moreover, juvenile delinquency is an attitude done by young people by neglecting social values adopted in society (Fusnika *et al.*, 2019).

Santrock (2014) added that there are predictor factors of juvenile delinquency, for instance (Fawaid, 2017): (a) conflicts toward authorities; (b) cover-up acts; (c) excessive acts of aggression followed by fighting and violence; (d) failure to find identity; (e) cognitive distortion; (f) self-control; (g) age; (h) sex; (i) expectations in education and school scores; (j) parental influence; (k) relationship with siblings; (l) peer influences; (m) socioeconomic status; (n) environmental quality (Kristianto, Bakar and Yasmara, 2019). As for parental influence, it is believed that open and two-way communication between parents and children, especially adolescents, needs to be developed so that adolescents can develop good behavior (Syah, Kusumaningrum and Tristiana, 2020)

Intention and inclination

Fishbein and Ajzen's the Theory of Behavior explained three aspects underlying behavior (Khair and Aviani, 2019). The first aspect is attitudes toward behavior. This attitude is determined by the belief about consequences following behavior, which also known as behavioral beliefs. Second is subjective norms, which are the functions of individual beliefs obtained through other people's perspectives that relate to the individual. The third is control perceptions toward attitudes – individual beliefs regarding the presence or the absence of factors that support or hinder the occurrence of a behavior.

Father absence

Father absence comprises several conditions, including having a father but absence during one's life, father's death, parental divorce, absence due to work commitments, absence due to being incarcerated or in prison, and physically exist but are considered absent because of neglect (Dewi and Soekandar, 2019). In this study, however, father absence is limited to three conditions, namely father's death, parental divorce, and fathers working away from home.

RESEARCH METHODS

The subjects of this study are 12-21-year-old adolescents that do not live together with their father due to death, parental divorce, or fathers working away from home. The sample was taken from a population by using a questionnaire as the primary data collection instrument. The independent variable of this study is father absence, while the dependent variable is the inclination of juvenile delinquency.

RESULTS

Based on the assumption test, which is the normality test by using the Kolmogorov-Smirnov, the data was not normally distributed even though the homogeneity test carried out by the Levene's test showed that the data was homogenous. Therefore, the data did not meet the requirement for the statistical parametric analysis. Thus, the authors employed the non-parametric analysis technique; the Kruskal-Wallis test.

The Kruskal-Wallis test is a non-parametric statistical test that assesses differences among three or more sample groups independently on a single continuous variable that is not normally distributed (Septyadini, Saputro and Utomo, 2017). The Kruskal-Wallis test, also known as the H test, is an alternative from the one-way between-groups analysis of variance or ANOVA (Septyadini, Saputro and Utomo, 2017). Moreover, if the significance level is less than 0.05, it can be said that there are differences between the test groups (Hanifah, 2017).

Table 1. The Results of the Inclination of Juvenile Delinquency Test caused by Father Absence by Using the Kruskal-Wallis Pairwise Comparisons Test

Group	Adj. Sig.
Parental divorce – Father's death	1.000
Parental divorce – Fathers working away from home	0.032
Father's death – Fathers working away from home	0.046

Based on table 1, it can be noticed that there are differences between the parental divorce group and the group of fathers working away from home, indicated by the significance level of 0.032. The difference between the father's death group and the fathers working away from home group shows a significance level of 0.046. However, the parental divorce group and the father's death group do not have differences in terms of juvenile delinquency inclination, given the significance level is higher than 0.05; 1.000.

Table 2. The Results of the Mean Rank

Father absence	N	Mean Rank
Father's death	87	156.49
Parental divorce	78	158.96
Fathers working away from home	124	128.16
Total	289	

The Mean Rank table 2 shows the results of the mean rank of each group. The group of adolescents with parental divorce has the highest delinquency inclination, which is 158.96. The second highest inclination is obtained by the group of father's deaths, with a number of 156.49. The lowest delinquency inclination, additionally, is spotted on the group of fathers working away from home, with a number of 128.16.

DISCUSSION

In the major hypothesis test, the significance level obtained is as much as 0.012. The number is less than 0.05, implying that the major hypothesis is accepted. In other words, overall, there are differences in juvenile delinquency inclination among the three groups.

On the other hand, in the minor hypothesis test, the difference between adolescents in the father's death group and adolescents in the parental divorce group has a significant level of 1.000 (p Sig. <0.05), denoting that there are no differences between those two groups. The result makes the first minor hypothesis rejected. The differences between the group of father's death and the group of fathers working away from home, moreover, have a significant level of 0.046 (p Sig. <0.05). The result makes the minor hypothesis accepted since there are differences between the two groups. The differences between the group of parental divorce and the group of fathers working away from home, additionally, obtain a significance level of 0.032 (p Sig. <0.05). Similar to the previous comparison, the result of this comparison is accepted given there are differences between the two compared groups.

The first minor hypothesis test performed in this study is rejected. In other words, the adolescents that belong to the group of parental divorce and father's death have similar patterns of emotional responses (Aprilia, 2020). Furthermore, there are similarities in terms of self-adjustment as a result of both parental divorce and father's death (Ariani, 2019).

Different from the first minor hypothesis result, the second result is accepted. There are differences in juvenile delinquency inclination between adolescents in the father's death group and adolescents in the group of fathers working away

from home. Moreover, the Mean Rank table denoted that those who belong in the father's death group show more delinquency inclination. Alike from the condition where the father is dead or divorced, arguably, fathers working away from home still give financial supports and actively monitor the children's well-being (Hanim, 2018). This kind of activities can be further interpreted as the presence of relation and interaction between the father and the children, which relates to the father's involvement in remote care (Wijayanti, 2018).

For the adolescents whose father is dead; nevertheless, there is no more relation nor interaction between the father and children, since the connection between them is lost (HOSHI, 2018). Kamila and Mukhlis (2013) further argued that there are differences in self-esteem between adolescents whose father is still alive and adolescents with a deceased father. In brief, those whose father is dead have lower self-esteem than the ones whose father is still alive (Kamila and Mukhlis, 2013).

Similar to the second minor hypothesis, the third minor hypothesis test result is also accepted, where there are differences between adolescents in the parental divorce group and adolescents in the group of fathers working away from home. By referring to the Mean Rank table, adolescents with parental divorce have higher delinquency inclination than adolescents from the other group.

In brief, parental divorce brings numerous influences to the children, which the majority of it is harmful or destructive (Sholichah, 2016). Furthermore, children are most likely to feel insecure, unwanted, lonely, angry, rebellious, lost, and self-blaming when their parents are divorced (Meiriana, 2016).

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis carried out, it can be concluded that there are differences in juvenile delinquency inclination among the groups of adolescents with father's death, adolescents with parental divorce, and adolescents with fathers working away from home. Specifically, the differences are spotted on the first and the third group. Other than that, this study also demonstrates that the inclination level of delinquency is higher in male adolescents than in female adolescents who undergo the same situations: father absence.

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