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CORRELATES OF DEVIANT BEHAVIOUR - AN ETIOLOGICAL STUDY

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Dedicated to

The memories of my late parents Chan Peck Kheng and Teh Iee Lian,

and doting mother-in-law, Tan Geok Hiang

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I hope that by undertaking this project I have set a good example for my two children, Lim Kai Yi and Lim Ruo Ping to follow. My husband, Lim Boon Huat has always been very encouraging and supportive.

ABSTRACT

This study aims to ascertain whether social and personal resources are related to deviant behaviour of adolescents. The social resources investigated are those available to them in their home, peer-group and school, and are measured in terms of parental support, peer-group support and school experiences. The personal resources studied are concepts of self, coping behaviour and moral development. Comparing delinquent subjects to controls will ascertain the resources that helped adolescents abstain from deviant behaviour.

Survey method is used for data collection. The questionnaire is administrated to 63 male delinquent subjects in an approved school. The questionnaire is posted to 16 of their non-delinquent male siblings who are close in age. The same questionnaire is later administered to 69 controls in a normal day school. Home visits are made to four families of the delinquents to collect qualitative data to obtain greater understanding of juvenile delinquency.

Among the delinquent subjects, 63.6 per cent are referred for property crimes while 23.7 per cent are for drug charges. Only nine per cent are for violent crimes and 3.6% for status offences. Rank order of their self-reported offences shows that *Smoking* is the most frequent offence and only one of them reported *Attempted Murder*. Motivation for delinquency includes lack of finances and wanting to have fun. The coping behaviours frequently employed by delinquent subjects are those described as avoidance-focused. Talking to parents about their problems is least common among them.

Correlation analyses show that most of their offences correlated with substance use. The results also suggest that mother and father played different roles in parental support. Correlates of deviant behaviour include attachment and commitment of the delinquent subjects to their peer-group and the number of delinquents in the peer-group. In school, correlates of deviant behaviour are lack of school enjoyment and problem with teachers. Low concepts of self, especially of perceived self intelligence, are associated with deviant behaviour. Seeking parental support and spiritual support are found to be more effective coping behaviours. Deviant behaviour is also found to be associated with lower stages of moral development.

Analysis using Stepwise Regression shows that peer-group variables are the best predictors of deviant behaviour among adolescents. Attachment and commitment to peer-group and the number of delinquents in the group accounted for 40 per cent of the total variance in deviant behaviour among them. These factors together with lack of finances as the motive for delinquency accounted for 44 per cent of the total variance in deviant behaviour.

When t-tests are used to compare the resources of the delinquent subjects and controls, controls reported receiving more parental support. They had peers who placed more importance on getting good grades in school and had fewer friends who were delinquents. Controls enjoyed schooling more. In contrast, delinquent subjects were more attached and committed to their peer-groups. They were more involved in sports, gave their teacher more problems and played truant more often. The controls, when compared to delinquent subjects, had higher perceptions of self except for peer acceptance which the two groups did not differ significantly. Delinquent subjects often used emotion-focused or avoidance-focused coping strategies. In contrast, the

controls used problem-focused coping behaviours, such as seeking parental and spiritual support. The controls were at higher stages of moral development compared to the delinquent subjects.

ABSTRAK

KORELASI ANTARA SUMBER-SUMBER DENGAN TINGKAH LAKU DEVIAN – SUATU KAJIAN SEBAB-MUSABAB

Kajian ini bertujuan menentukan sama ada sumber sosial dan sumber peribadi ada kaitan dengan tingkah laku devian di kalangan remaja. Sumber sosial yang dikaji didapati daripada keluarga, rakan sebaya dan sekolah, diukur dalam bentuk sokongan ibu bapa, sokongan kumpulan rakan sebaya dan pengalaman semasa di sekolah. Sumber peribadi yang diteliti terdiri daripada konsep kendiri, tingkah laku semasa menangani masalah dan peringkat perkembangan moral. Kumpulan delinkuen dibandingkan dengan kumpulan kawalan atas sumber-sumber ini untuk menentukan sumber-sumber yang membantu remaja mengekangi tingkah laku devian.

Kaedah survey diguna untuk mengumpul data. Soal selidik diberikan kepada kumpulan delinkuen yang terdiri daripada 63 orang pelajar lelaki di sebuah sekolah pemulihan akhlak. Soal selidik ini kemudian dikirim kepada 16 orang adik-beradik lelaki mereka yang hampir sama umur tetapi bukan delinkuen. Soal selidik yang sama kemudian diberikan kepada kumpulan kawalan yang terdiri daripada 69 orang pelajar lelaki di sebuah sekolah harian biasa. Empat keluarga di kalangan pelajar delinkuen dilawati untuk mengumpul data berbentuk kualitatif bagi menambahkan lagi pemahaman tentang masalah juvana.

Di kalangan pelajar delinkuen, 63.6 peratus dirujuk atas jenayah harta benda manakala 23.7 peratus adalah untuk penyalahgunaan dadah. Hanya 23.7 peratus adalah untuk jenayah keganasan dan 3.6 peratus adalah untuk salah laku status. Di antara salah laku yang dilaporkan, merokok adalah salah laku yang paling kerap di kalangan mereka dan cuba membunuh hanya dilaporkan oleh seorang pelajar.

Motivasi untuk salah laku termasuk kekurangan wang dan hendak berseronok. Mereka sering menangani masalah dengan tingkah laku yang disifatkan sebagai cuba mengelakkan diri daripada situasi yang bermasalah (avoidance-focused). Mereka jarang berbincang dengan ibu bapa tentang masalah yang mereka sedang hadapi.

Analisis berbentuk korelasi menunjukkan bahawa kebanyakan salah laku di kalangan pelajar ada kaitan dengan penyalahgunaan dadah dan arak. Bagi sokongan ibu bapa, nampaknya peranan ibu berbeza daripada peranan ayah. Selain daripada itu, hubungan rapat dengan rakan sebaya, perasaan kurang seronok semasa di sekolah, masalah dengan guru, dan persepsi diri dari segi intelek yang rendah di kalangan pelajar delinkuen ada korelasi dengan salah laku mereka. Berbincang dengan ibu bapa atau bertaqwa merupakan tingkah laku yang lebih berkesan untuk menangani masalah. Tingkah laku devian juga dikaitkan dengan tahap perkembangan moral yang rendah di kalangan delinkuen.

Analisis Regresi mengikut langkah menunjukkan bahawa faktor kumpulan rakan sebaya merupakan penentu utama tingkah laku devian. Faktor kumpulan rakan sebaya menyumbang sebanyak 40 peratus. Kekurangan wang sebagai motif salah laku bersama faktor kumpulan rakan sebaya, menyumbang sebanyak 44 peratus kepada kelainan tingkah laku devian.

Kumpulan delinkuen dibandingkan dengan kumpulan kawalan dengan menggunakan Ujian t. Kumpulan kawalan mendapat sokongan yang lebih daripada ibu bapa. Rakan sebaya mereka lebih mementingkan pencapaian di sekolah dan tidak ramai di kalangan mereka merupakan delinkuen Semasa di sekolah pula, kumpulan kawalan lebih seronok dengan keadaan persekolahan. Sebaliknya kumpulan

delinkuen mempunyai hubungan yang lebih rapat dengan rakan sebaya,lebih banyak melibatkan diri dalam sukan, lebih bermasalah dengan guru dan lebih kerap ponteng sekolah. Kumpulan kawalan juga mempunyai persepsi diri yang lebih tinggi dari segi intelek dan fizikal. Walau bagaimanapun persepsi diri dari segi penerimaan rakan sebaya kedua-dua kumpulan ini tidak berbeza secara signifikan. Semasa menangani masalah, kumpulan delinkuen lebih dipengaruhi oleh emosi ataupun cuba mengelakkan diri daripada situasi tersebut. Kumpulan kawalan pula lebih suka berbincang dengan ibu bapa atau bertaqwa. Kumpulan kawalan didapati berada pada tahap perkembangan moral yang lebih tinggi berbanding dengan kumpulan delinkuen.

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