The Relationship Between Parenting Styles and Violent Behavior in Adolescent Inmates

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Abstract

Adolescence is a critical developmental period marked by identity exploration and vulnerability to negative influences, with parenting playing a significant role in shaping behavior. This study investigates the relationship between parenting styles and violent behavior among adolescent inmates, focusing on two correctional institutions. The research employed a cross-sectional quantitative design, utilizing questionnaires to collect data from adolescent inmates in two prisons. The analysis focused on identifying the predominant parenting styles experienced by the inmates and the prevalence of violent behavior within this population. The findings revealed that authoritarian parenting was the most common style reported by respondents, and a high level of violent behavior was observed among the inmates. Statistical analysis (p-value=0.001) demonstrated a strong and significant correlation between authoritarian parenting and the occurrence of violent behavior, indicating that strict and inflexible parenting approaches contribute to the development of aggression in adolescents. These results underscore the importance of fostering positive parenting practices and providing targeted interventions in correctional settings to reduce violence among adolescents. Low educational attainment and external factors, such as peer influence and family instability, further exacerbate violent tendencies. Understanding the impact of parenting styles is essential for developing effective prevention and rehabilitation strategies for young offenders.

INTRODUCTION

Adolescence is a pivotal stage of human development marked by profound psychological, emotional, and social transitions, during which individuals are particularly vulnerable to external influences and behavioral challenges (Christopher, 2022). At this stage, the role of parenting style becomes especially significant, as the nature of parental guidance and discipline can shape the formation of adolescent personality, emotional regulation, and social interaction (Ani, 2020).

While prior studies have generally examined the relationship between parenting and youth outcomes, there is a notable lack of research focusing specifically on how distinct parenting styles-authoritarian, permissive, and democratic-relate to violent behavior among adolescent inmates, particularly within the context of correctional institutions. This study presents originality and novelty by directly exploring the association between these specific parenting styles and violent tendencies among incarcerated adolescents in two major correctional facilities, an area that has not been extensively addressed in previous literature.

The anticipated impact of this research lies in its potential to inform the development of targeted interventions and preventive strategies aimed at reducing violence among youth in correctional settings, ultimately supporting the work of nurses, educators, and policymakers in addressing the needs of this vulnerable population (Manto et al., 2020). Furthermore, this study contributes to the acceleration of knowledge in adolescent psychology, correctional education, and family studies by providing a deeper understanding of the mechanisms through which parenting styles may foster or mitigate aggressive behaviors (Saputri et al., 2022; Widara et al., 2019). In light of these considerations, the objective of this research is to investigate whether there is a significant relationship between parenting styles and violent behavior among

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adolescent inmates in Class I Semarang Prison and Class I Cipinang Prison.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research employed a quantitative, cross-sectional design to analyze the relationship between parenting styles and violent behavior among adolescent inmates. The study population comprised all adolescent prisoners at Class I Semarang Prison in Central Java and Class I Cipinang Prison in DKI Jakarta. Based on administrative data, there were 34 adolescent inmates in Semarang and 66 in Cipinang, resulting in a total population of 100 respondents. The total sampling technique was used, involving all available adolescent inmates from both institutions. Data collection was conducted through structured questionnaires distributed to the participants. The research was implemented in September 2024, with initial surveys and data gathering performed on September 24, 2024, at Class I Semarang Prison and on September 25, 2024, at Class I Cipinang Prison. Data analysis included univariate analysis to describe respondent characteristics and bivariate analysis using the Gamma test to examine the relationship between parenting styles and violent behavior. Throughout the study, ethical principles such as informed consent, anonymity, and confidentiality were strictly maintained. This research has been reviewed by the ethics team with letter number 1121/A.1-KEPK/FIK-SA/X/2024 and research permission was granted by the Head of the Correctional Division with letter number W.13.UM.01.01-2578 dated October 28, 2024.

RESULT

The characteristics of the respondents in this study are Lapas, age, gender, and the last education of the respondents. The interpretation of this study will be presented in the following results.

Table 1. Frequency Distribution of Respondents by Prison Area, Gender, Last Education

Prison	Frequency	Percentage %	
Semarang	34	34 %	
Cipinang	66	66 %	
Total	100	100.0 %	
Gender	Frequency	Percentage %	
Male	100	100 %	
Female	0	0 %	
Total	100	100.0 %	
Last Education	Frequency	Percentage %	
Not School	10	10 %	
Primary School	9	9 %	
Middle School	41	41 %	
Senior High School	38	38 %	
Associate Degree	1	1 %	
Bachelor Degree	1	1 %	
Total	100	100.0 %	

The respondents of this study were adolescent prisoners in Class I Semarang Prison, Central Java, totaling 34 people and Class I Cipinang Prison, DKI Jakarta, totaling

66 people, with a total of 100 people. The gender of most respondents was male as many as 100 people. The most recent education of respondents shown was junior high school as many as 41 people (41%).

Table 2. Frequency Distribution of Respondents by Prison Area, Gender, Last Education

Characteristics	teristics Mean±SD		Mode	Minimum-Maximum	
Age	19.06±1.071	19.00	20	17 - 20	

The lowest age of respondents shown in Table 2 was 17 years old. The highest age was 20 years old. The mode age of all respondents was 20 years old. The mean age of respondents was 19.06.

Table 3. Frequency Distribution of Respondents on the Case at Prison

Case	Frequency	Percentage %	
Theft	19	19 %	
Drugs	10	10 %	
Fraud	7	7 %	
Bullying	26	26 %	
Murder	4	4 %	
Extortion	1	1 %	
Sacrilegious	9	9 %	
Depriving Others of Liberty	2	2 %	
ITE	1	1 %	
Women & Child Protection	2	2 %	
Emergency Law	3	3 %	
Health Law	1	1 %	
Money Laundering	1	1 %	
No Mention of Case	14	14 %	
Total	100	100.0 %	

The most common respondent case shown in Table 3 was a case of beating (bullying) as many as 26 people (26%). The second case where respondents at the prison were thieves, as many as 19 people (19%). There were 14 people who did not mention the case.

Table 4. The Relationship of Parenting Patterns with Violent Behavior in Semarang Class I Prison and Cipinang Class I Prison

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Violent Behavior								
Variables		Low	Medium	High	Total	Coefficient Correlation	ρ value	
Parenting	Democratic	10	13	4	27	0.756	0.001	
	Permisive	5	17	10	32	0.730	0.001	
	Authoritarian	1	6	34	41			
Total		16	36	48	100			

The data presented in Table 4. shows that authoritarian parenting is the most widely used parenting pattern by respondents' parents, with a significant proportion of 41 respondents (41%), indicating that this parenting pattern has a substantial influence in this context. The violent behavior in Class I Semarang Prison and Class I Cipinang Prison, with respondents aged 17-20 years is at a high level, with 48 respondents (48%).

The statistical analysis conducted using the Gamma test, revealed a strong and significant correlation between parenting patterns and violent behavior among adolescent prisoners in Semarang Class I Prison and Cipinang Class I Prison, with a very low probability value ($\rho = 0.001$, $\rho < 0.05$) and a high correlation coefficient (0.756), indicating that parenting patterns play an important role in the formation of violent behavior among these adolescents.

DISCUSSION

The discussion is structured to follow the research objectives, beginning with the characteristics of the respondents, then exploring parenting styles, violent behavior, and finally the relationship between parenting styles and violent behavior among adolescent inmates. The respondents in this study were predominantly male adolescents aged seventeen to twenty, with most having completed junior high school as their highest level of education. This demographic profile is significant, as previous research has shown that adolescent males with lower educational attainment are more susceptible to violent behavior due to limited social control and coping mechanisms (Lohy & Pribadi, 2021). The finding that all respondents were male aligns with studies indicating that adolescent boys are more likely to engage in risky and aggressive behaviors (Setyawan, 2019; Prasetyo, 2020).

Regarding parenting styles, the study found that authoritarian parenting was the most prevalent among respondents' families. This is consistent with previous research demonstrating that strict and inflexible parenting can hinder the development of healthy emotional regulation and social skills in adolescents (Adzikri, 2021; Suskandeni et al., 2018). Authoritarian parenting is characterized by high demands and low responsiveness, where parents expect obedience without providing adequate explanations or opportunities for dialogue. This approach can contribute to the development of aggressive tendencies in adolescents, as supported by Hurlock's theory and the findings of (Febrina et al., 2024) and (Ugita et al., 2023), which indicate that strict control and frequent punishment increase the likelihood of violent behavior.

The high level of violent behavior observed among adolescent inmates in both correctional institutions supports the argument that both internal factors, such as weak self-control and identity crises, and external factors, such as negative peer influence and family instability, contribute to aggression (Rulmuzu, 2021; Selviana, 2024). The findings are in line with Bandura's Social Learning Theory, which posits that aggressive behaviors are learned through observation and imitation, especially in environments where strict discipline is enforced without emotional support (Bandura & Walters, 1977; Rizki & Appulembang, 2021).

The statistical analysis using the Gamma test revealed a strong and significant correlation between authoritarian parenting and violent behavior, affirming the research hypothesis and directly answering the research problem. The results demonstrate that adolescents who experienced authoritarian or permissive parenting were more likely to exhibit violent tendencies, while those raised with democratic parenting showed lower levels of aggression. These findings have important implications for correctional institutions, parents, and policymakers. They highlight the need for interventions that promote positive parenting practices and provide psychosocial support to at-risk adolescents. By confirming the significant influence of parenting styles on violent behavior, this study contributes to the acceleration of

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knowledge in adolescent psychology, correctional education, and family studies. It underscores the importance of integrating family-based approaches into violence prevention and rehabilitation programs for adolescent offenders, ultimately supporting the development of more effective strategies to address youth violence.

In summary, the study's findings affirmatively answer the research objectives by demonstrating a clear relationship between parenting styles and violent behavior among adolescent inmates in Class I Semarang Prison and Class I Cipinang Prison. The evidence presented not only advances theoretical understanding but also offers practical guidance for future interventions and policy development.

CONCLUSION

This study found a strong and significant relationship between parenting styles and violent behavior among adolescent inmates in Class I Semarang Prison and Class I Cipinang Prison. Authoritarian parenting was the most common style experienced by the inmates and was closely linked to higher levels of violent behavior. These findings highlight the importance of positive parenting practices in preventing violence among adolescents and suggest that interventions targeting family dynamics could help reduce aggressive behavior in this population.

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