

FAMILY ENVIRONMENT AS A MODERATOR OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HOUSING ENVIRONMENT AND DEVIANT BEHAVIOR AMONG ADOLESCENTS IN AMPANG JAYA

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to identify the relationship between housing environment and adolescents deviant behaviour at low-cost housing flats at Pandan Jaya Ampang. A total of 185 adolescents aged 12 to 18 years old were chosen as the sample of this study. A set of questionnaire was chosen as an instrument. The data collected was processed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 20. Descriptive analysis was used to describe the frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation. Pearson Correlation was used to test the hypothesis of the study. While multiple regression was used to indicate the moderator effect. Finding of the study showed that the level of adolescents' deviant behaviour is at low level with a mean value of 1.97. The finding also showed that there is a significant relationship between housing environment and adolescents' deviant behaviour with the correlation environment, the higher the the level of youth involvement in deviant behavior. Finding from multiple regression analysis showed that family environment is the moderator, where it reduce the strength of relationship between housing environment and adolescents' deviant behaviour. As the conclusion, the high quality of family environment will reduce the level of adolescents' involvement in deviant behavior despite the quality of housing environment is low.

KEYWORDS: Family Environment, Housing Environment, Deviant Behaviour

INTRODUCTION

Adolescence today are the generation that will conduct the development and country well-being in the future. But in fact, the increase in crime and disorder involving teenagers are alarming the whole society (Azizi & Badrulzaman, 2003). Adolescence who engage in misconduct are often labeled as deviant or delinquent. According to Robert Merton (1976), deviant behavior is defined as behavior that deviates significantly from the norm specified in the community. While according to *Kamus Dewan Bahasa* (2003), deviant behavior is defined as behavior that deviates or detour. This is supported by Azizi et al. (2005), which states that deviant behavior means behavior that violates the norms of a particular community.

Various studies have been conducted by various parties to identify the factors that lead to deviant behaviors among teenagers. Azizi & Rohaya (2009) found that psychological factors of the teenagers's themselves are one of the factors that contribute to deviant behaviors. Duke (1980) states that every individual is responsible for their own behavior. As teenagers, they experience changes from childhood to adulthood. These changing phase is a confusing time for them because they will go through a critical period of changes mentally and physically. Family factor is also one of the driving

forces of deviant behavior because the family is the primary influence in a teen's life (Hoffman, 1996). Utti (2006) states that parenting has been identified as one of the key element that will drive the socialization of children's life. While according to Boroffice (2004), dysfunctional families caused by divorce and fight between his parents would encourage teenagers to engage in various forms of deviant behavior. This is supported by Hyssong (2000), which states that the separation that occurs between mother and father will put pressure on the teenagers, and eventually led to a decline in their studies and engage in deviant behavior.

Generally this study tried to look the other factors other that the factors of self, peer influence and family that lead to deviant behavior. This research is focusing on the extent of the housing environment elements lead to deviant behavior emong teenagers. This is important because the development of the youth is strongly influenced by their environment (Azizi & Badruzaman, 2003). Apart from the family environment, housing environment is also a setting closest to the teenagers. This is because the home is the primary place where individuals meet their basic needs, learn about life and build their self-esteem (Fashbir, 2000).

According to Ahmad Nadzri (2002), housing environment is one of the key element that can affect the personality and behavior of individual. This is because, people are constantly exposed to the stimulus either positive or negative in the house. Positive stimuli like clean house and comfortable house will create an atmosphere of peace and harmony in society. But for those who are exposed to noisy atmosphere, hot and narrow space will cause anxiety, discomfort and lead to social problems and negatives behavior. This is supported by Vera-Toscano and Esperanza (2008) which states that the good housing environment will bring positive impact to the occupants, while bad housing environment will give negative impact to the residents. According to Terrence and Ronald (2005), there are many social problems that arise as a result of the negative stimulus found in residential area. Statistic shows that the problem of deviant behavior is higher in adolescents who live in cramped housing, too dense, that cause distress and discomfort feeling compared to adolescents who live in a bigger and comfortable house (Ahmad, 2003).

Apart from focusing on housing environmental aspect, this study focuses on aspect of adolescent's family environment where it will be tested as a moderator of the relationship between housing environment and deviant behaviors. Previous studies in malaysia and in the west have shown that good family relationship have been associated with the well-being of adolescents in aspects of life satisfaction, self-concept, behavior and academic achievement (Fatanah, 1997). According to Jacocvitz et al., (1996), most of the anti social behavior of adolescents are due to the failure of parenting style and family management.

According to Hoffman (1996), the family has develop the personality of an individual since childhood phase. Family system influence the behavior, thinking, and attitude of an individual. It shows that family environment is an important element that influence the adolescents. So that, the family environment were tested as a moderator of the relationship between housing environment and deviant behavior among adolescents.

METHOD

The design of this study was a survey where a set of questionnaire was used to identify the quality of housing environment of the respondent and to determine the relationship between housing environment and deviant behavior among adolescents. The questionnaire was divided into four section which are background of the respondents, housing quality, family environment and level of deviant behavior among respondents.

To ensure the results obtained is in accordance to the objectives set, the researcher conducted a pilot study of the questionnaire to 30 respondents. The purpose of this study is to ensure that the questionnaire constructed can be applied and further test the realibility of the questionnaire before it is distributed to the respondents. The result proved that the Cronbach’s Alpha for part B (The quality of housing environment) is $\sigma = 0.576$, C (family environment) $\sigma = 0.786$, and Part D (deviant behavior) $\sigma = 0.891$. The questionnaire was distributed to 200 respondents. Data were analyzed based on the objectives set.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Finding shows that there is a significant relationship between housing environment and deviant behavior among teenagers. From Table 1, it was found that the strength of the relationship between the quality of the housing environment with the involvement of youth in the juvenile deviant behavior is equivalent to -0.428 . As the value of $p = 0.000$ is smaller than 0.01 , the hypothesis is rejected. This means that there is a significant relationship between the level of environmental quality housing with the involvement of youth in the juvenile deviant behavior.

Since these tests are significant correlation with the strength of the relationship of -0.428 , it shows a moderate and inverse. It is concluded that there is a significant relationship between the level of housing environmental quality with the involvement of adolescents in the deviant behavior, where the lower level of the housing environmental quality, the higher the level of adolescent’s participation in deviant behavior, and vice versa.

Table 1: Pearson Correlation Analysis for the Relationship between the Level of Adolescent’s Housing Environmental Quality and the Level of Adolescents Involvement in Deviant Behavior

		Housing Environment	Adolescent’s Deviant Behavior
Housing Environment	Pearson Correlation	1	-.428**
	Sig. (2-tail)		.000
	n	185	185
Adolescent’s Deviant Behavior	Pearson Correlation	-.428**	1
	Sig. (2-tail)	.000	
	n	185	185

Finding also shows that family environment is the moderator to the relationship between housing environment and deviant behavior. According to Baron and Kenny (1986), a moderator is a qualitative or quantitative variable that affect the direction or strength of the relationship between an independent variable and dependent variable. Moderators may reduce or reinforce the relationship between independent variable and dependent variable, or it was possible to change the direction of the relationship (Lindley & Walker, 1993).

Table 2 shows the results of regression analyzes conducted. This study shows the value of R^2 increases as family environment elements tested. This suggests that the family environment is a moderator to the relationship between housing environment and deviant behaviors. In addition, the moderator can be seen from the change in $R^2 = 0.006$ which is significant at $F(1, 131) = 1.36$, $p = 0.000$ $p < 0.01$. This is supported by Aldwin (1994); Baron & Kenny (1986); Holmbeck (1997), which states that the moderator effect is present when the change in $R^2 (\Delta R^2)$ on the interaction is significant.

Table 2: Multiple Regression Analysis of Moderating Factor

Model	R Square	R Square Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change
Housing Environment (Model 1)	.377	.377	2	132	.000
Housing Environment x Family Environment (Model 2)	.383	.006	1	131	.000

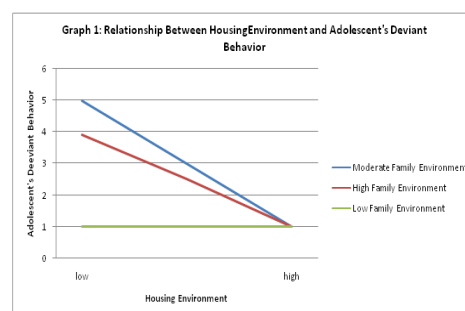
Next, to determine the effect of the moderator on the relationship between housing environmental quality and the level of adolescent's involvement in deviant behaviors, researchers have tested the relationship of these two aspects, which are when the quality of the family environment is low and the quality of the family environment is high. Table 3 shows the results of the correlation tests conducted.

Table 3: Correlation Analysis between Housing Environment and Adolescent's Deviant Behaviour when Family Environment Act as the Moderator

		Low Family Environmental Quality (Moderator)		High Family Environmental Quality (Moderator)	
		Housing Environment	Adolescent's Deviant Behaviour	Housing Environment	Adolescent's Deviant Behaviour
Housing Environment	Pearson Correlation	1	-.061	1	-.349**
	Sig. (2-tail)		.656		.002
Family Environment	Pearson Correlation	-.061	1	-.349**	1
	Sig. (2-tail)	.656		.002	

** Correlation is significant at 0.01 (2-tail).

Graph 1 shows that the relationship between the quality of housing with the involvement of adolescents in deviant behavior was significantly and inversely. This shows that the lower the adolescent's housing quality, the higher the adolescent's involvement in deviant behavior. While the low level of the family environment (moderator) is not significant in those relationships. However, the high level of family environmental quality (moderator) will reduce the adolescent's involvement in deviant behavior.

**Figure 1**

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the findings, we can conclude that housing environmental factors influence the level of adolescent's involvement in deviant behavior. Finding also shows that the family atmosphere is a moderator to the relationship between housing environment and deviant behaviors among the adolescents.

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