



Research Paper

The Effect of Child Maltreatment on Dating Violence Behavior in Early Adults Who Are Dating

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ABSTRACT: This study aims to determine the effect of child maltreatment on dating violence behavior in young adults who are dating. The participants in this study was 95 people, with the characteristics being men and women aged 19 – 32 years who were dating and had and/are still committing violence in relationships. This research uses a quantitative approach where data collection is used in the form of a questionnaire with a purposive sampling technique. The results of the study showed that child maltreatment had an effect of 61.7% on dating violence behavior in young adults who were dating. This illustrates that with the experience of child maltreatment in individuals who are in dating relationships as adults, they have a tendency to engage in violent behavior in dating. Individuals who experience childhood maltreatment tend to imitate the violence they experience or see and do it in relationships in adulthood as a form of controlling or getting the things they want from their partners.

KEYWORDS: Dating Violence, Child Maltreatment, Adult in Dating

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I. INTRODUCTION

Early adulthood begins at the age of 18 years to 40 years [1]. One of the developmental tasks at this stage is intimacy, where individuals approach other people, either in the form of friendship or more intimate relationships [2]. Intimacy in this research is a dating relationship. Dating, also known as dating, is seen as a relationship between men and women who have mutual interests and special feelings which are defined as affection and a sense of belonging to each other [3]. In a dating relationship, both men and women want a relationship that is balanced, mutually happy and complementary [4]. On the other hand, there are nuances of romance and affection, it is not uncommon for the opinion to arise that dating will also trigger acts of violence [5]. Dating violence is a deliberate act carried out using abusive tactics to gain or maintain power and control over one's partner [6].

Based on SIMFONI-PPA data released by the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (2022), there were 267 cases of violence committed by dating couples in North Sumatra Province and in 2023 there will be an increase in cases to 279 cases of violence committed by dating couples in Sumatra Province North. Based on the results of research conducted by [7], perpetrators of violence stated that they would hit, curse or hurt if their partner did not comply with the aim of making their partner feel deterred. Perpetrators of dating violence are motivated to commit violence for various reasons, one of which is that male perpetrators commit violence to express their emotions and have the desire to get attention from their partners.

For perpetrators of violence, violent acts are one way to resolve interpersonal conflicts that occur in their relationships. Perpetrators of dating violence consciously or unconsciously force their partners to do what they want by exploiting their partner's fear, feelings of guilt or pity with the aim of dominating them [8]. Violence committed by perpetrators is a habit that becomes a recurring pattern, which ends in committing violence, then regret appears, apologizes, then continues the relationship as usual, and repeats the violent behavior again [9].

The World Health Organization, indicates that individuals who tend to engage in violent behavior in their relationships have experienced violence in the family (child maltreatment), such as parents who abuse their own children and do not protect their children from all forms of violence [10]. According to WHO, child maltreatment is violence and neglect that occurs in children under 18 years of age [11]. In line with WHO, Bernstein also states that child maltreatment is any form of violence or abuse committed by adults against children under 18 years of age, which includes physical violence, emotional violence, sexual violence, physical neglect and emotional neglect [12].

Child maltreatment can occur in families that are not intact, such as broken homes by death and divorce, parents who are busy and rarely at home, so that children are not paid attention to by their parents, there are husband and wife relationships that often quarrel and act abusive, parents or caregivers who use alcohol or drugs, depressed parents, families consisting of stepparents, family stress related to job loss, workload, financial problems, poverty, and the presence of adult family members but had experienced violence as a child. The results of research conducted by Mohr and Tulman[12], state that child maltreatment occurs more often in families that also experience violence by intimate partners, maternal distress, poverty, family stress, social isolation, and a history of physical violence or physical punishment in childhood.

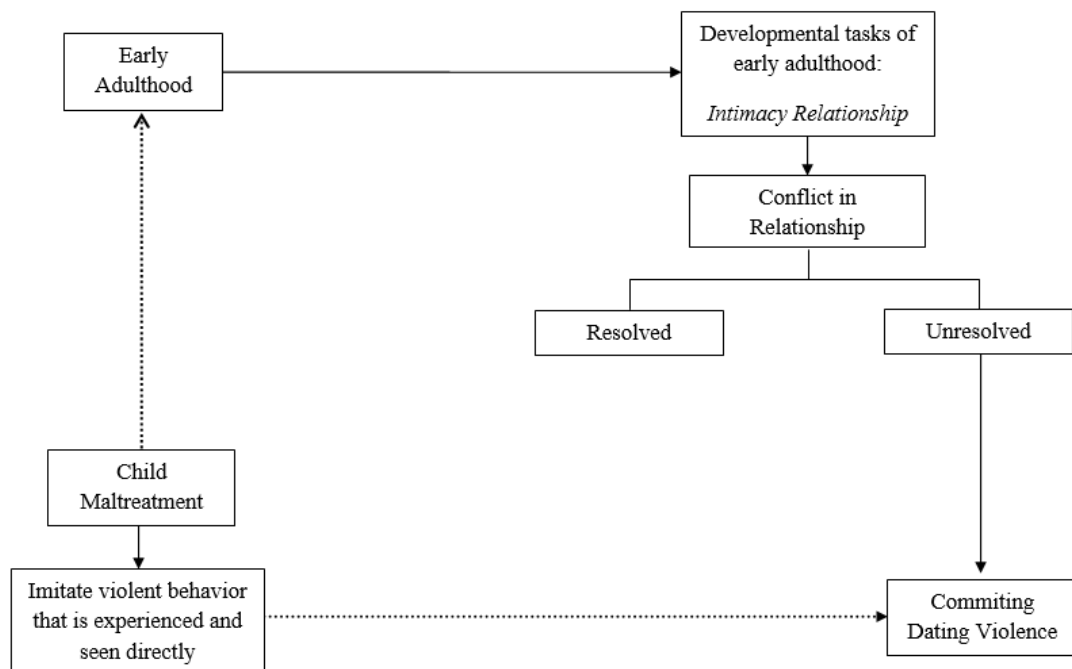
The experience of child maltreatment can have an impact on the individual himself and his relationships with others. In the research results of Margaretha [13], found that there was a significant positive relationship between childhood and adolescent trauma and levels of aggressiveness in adulthood. There is a 22% relationship between the trauma of witnessing and experiencing violence and the aggression of perpetrators of violence [13]. Individuals who have experienced bad treatment in childhood can become perpetrators or victims of violence [12]. Individuals who experience child maltreatment lead to an increased likelihood of violence in adolescence and adulthood through modeling and accepting violence [9]. Stating that children who have experienced interpersonal violence at a young age have a greater tendency to become perpetrators of violence in adulthood [9].

The results of research conducted by Arrigo [13], stated that boys who grow up in families experiencing violence have a higher risk of becoming perpetrators of violence in the future. Meanwhile, girls who experience violence will develop into adult women who tend to be passive and have a high risk of becoming victims of violence in the future. Individuals who experience violence as children tend to show traumatic symptoms and are at high risk of becoming perpetrators of violence as adults [13]. According to Walker [12], individuals who experience violence in childhood tend to feel helpless and have a lack of control over violence in adulthood. Adult individuals who have experienced child maltreatment tend to experience difficulties in interpersonal relationships [14].

Individual experiences in the family can influence individual intimacy [15]. In line with the previous explanation, Robinson [13], stated that individuals who witnessed and experienced violence as children learned to use violence in their relationships as adults to control their partners and gain obedience from their partners. Individuals who have experienced physical violence or abuse during childhood in their family environment tend to show aggressive behavior towards their partners [13]. In the results of Gover et al. [9], said that individuals who experienced physical violence as children tended to become perpetrators of dating violence. Apart from that, individuals who experienced psychological violence and sexual violence as children have the influence to become perpetrators of dating violence for both men and women[9].

Individuals who experienced violence in childhood tend to become perpetrators or victims of violence in adulthood [13]. The impact of child maltreatment can be seen physically, such as individuals having physical disabilities, learning disabilities, substance abuse, and so on. Psychologically, they can behave rudely, withdraw, and tend to have low self-esteem, which results in difficulty developing and maintaining relationships [12].

Based on the explanation above, this study aims to determine the picture of child maltreatment in young adults who are dating. It is hoped that this understanding can help families and the wider community regarding the things that trigger child maltreatment and the impacts that can be experienced by young adults who are dating. This understanding can then be used to anticipate the emergence of violent behavior. The experience of child maltreatment is a complex problem that can trigger violent behavior in the future.



II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Dating violence, which is usually referred to as dating violence, is an action carried out consciously or intentionally by relying on abusive tactics and physical coercion in order to maintain power and control over one's partner [6]. Dating violence is a form of behavior that dominates one's partner by carrying out physical violence, sexual violence or psychological violence which can result in injury or loss [15]. There are three forms of violence in dating [6]: (1) emotional abuse, which is an action that uses words (verbal), (2) physical abuse, which is behavior that results in the partner being physically injured, and (3) sexual abuse, is a form of coercion to carry out sexual activities or sexual contact without the partner's consent or wishes.

The factors that cause individuals to become perpetrators of dating violence [6], namely (1) individual factors, someone who is young and has a low economic status can cause the individual to commit violence against their partner, (2) the experience of violence in the family, children who see or become victims of violence in the family tend to imitate these habits and make children behave aggressively towards friends and partners, (3) relationship factors, lack of satisfaction in the relationship they are in can cause conflict and trigger acts of violence, (4) personality disorders, individuals who commit violence in partners tends to experience emotional dependence, insecurity, and low self-esteem, (5) community factors, seeing violence committed in the community and a person's acceptance of the violence that occurs, which triggers individuals to commit violence.

Childhood maltreatment is any form of violence or abuse committed by adults against children under 18 years of age, which includes physical violence, emotional violence, sexual violence, physical neglect and emotional neglect [16]. The World Health Organization states that child maltreatment is behavior of violence and neglect experienced by children, including physical, psychological, sexual violence and exploitation [17]. Child maltreatment is an intentional act that endangers children, whether carried out by parents or other people [18].

According Straus & Gelles, child maltreatment is an intentional act that causes harm or danger to children physically or emotionally [19]. Violence against children refers to acts of punching, biting, beating, and attempts to stab children [19]. Violence against children is the administration of physical punishment with the aim of preventing children from being naughty [9]. According Straus & Gelles, children are hit with objects, whipped and hurt by parents with the aim of punishing children for wrong behavior [9].

There are several forms of violence against children, namely physical abuse or physical violence which is any form of treatment that causes injury or physical injury to children [16]. Physical violence is torture, beatings and mistreatment of children with or without the use of certain objects that cause physical injury or death to the child [16]. Furthermore, forms of violence against children, namely emotional abuse or psychological violence, are various conditions that affect mood, thoughts and behavior which are the result of psychological or verbal violence [16]. There are forms of emotional abuse such as scolding, threatening,

swearing, labeling children with negative or degrading sentences, calling them nicknames, and conveying dirty words [2]. This action has a high probability of damaging the child's self-esteem (Bornfield, 2005).

The third form of violence against children is emotional neglect & physical neglect or child neglect, which is a lack of attention to the child's emotional needs and development [16]. Children feel a lack of attention from parents and parents also allow children to be independent in ways that are not in accordance with the child's developmental needs, such as allowing children to consume alcohol or illegal drugs [16]. Parents also delay children's health care, throw children out of the house, don't care about children's education, fail to fulfill children's basic needs (not providing adequate food or supervision), lack of communication and do not give attention and affection to children [2]. Lastly, sexual abuse or sexual violence against children is an act of abuse against children carried out by adults, family and people closest to the child [16]. Acts of sexual abuse can take the form of sexual touching that the child does not want, such as playing with the child's genitals and carrying out other sexual contact by force [20]. Sexual abuse of children can be carried out by people who are still members of the family (familial abuse), and can be carried out by other people outside the family (exfamilial abuse).

The experience of child maltreatment certainly has an impact on the individual who experiences it. The impact of child maltreatment, namely the potential to become a perpetrator of violence, harboring deep anger towards the perpetrator of violence, having attachment problems with other people, and the potential to experience a decline in mental and intellectual intelligence [21]. The experience of child maltreatment also has an impact on low self-esteem, inability to relate to peers, difficulty concentrating and learning disorders, having physical injuries such as bruises, scratches, burns, permanent disability, and even death.

III. RESEARCH METHODS

The subjects used in this research were 95 people with the characteristics of being men and women aged 19 - 32 years and who had and/were still committing violence in relationships. In order to make it easier to collect data, researchers need tools that can help researchers. In an effort to detect respondents as perpetrators of violence, researchers used the Conflict Tactic Scales-Shortform (CTS-S) measuring instrument developed by [6]. CTS-S can be used to measure the frequency of violence committed through three dimensions, namely physical abuse, emotional abuse, and sexual abuse. The CTS-S consists of 39 items using a Likert scale of 1 – 5.

Researchers used the Childhood Trauma Questionnaire Short Form (CTQ-SF) measurement tool developed by Bernstein [16]. CTQ-SF can be used to detect childhood trauma in adults. The CTQ-SF has a total of 28 items using a Likert scale of 1 – 5 to measure mild – severe trauma in childhood. CTQ-SF has 5 dimensions, namely physical violence, sexual violence, emotional violence, physical neglect and emotional neglect.

This research uses quantitative research methods, where data collection is used in the form of a questionnaire with a purposive sampling technique. Quantitative research is used to research certain populations or samples, data collection uses research instruments, and data analysis is quantitative or statistical in nature with the aim of testing predetermined hypotheses [22]. The experience of child maltreatment is a phenomenon that not everyone experiences.

IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

There were 58 respondents (61%) in the low dating violence category, 21 respondents (22%) in the high dating violence category, and 16 respondents (16.8%) in the medium category. Meanwhile, for child maltreatment, there were 46 respondents (48.4%) in the low child maltreatment category, 25 respondents (26.3%) in the high child maltreatment category, and 24 respondents (25.3%) in the moderate child maltreatment category.

Table 1
Cross Tabulation Child Maltreatment and Dating Violence

Kategori <i>Child Maltreatment</i>	<i>Dating Violence</i>					
	Rendah		Sedang		Tinggi	
	Jumlah Subjek	Persentase (%)	Jumlah Subjek	Persentase (%)	Jumlah Subjek	Persentase (%)
Rendah	45	47.4%	1	1.1%	0	0.0%
Sedang	9	9.5%	15	15.8%	0	0.0%
Tinggi	4	4.2%	0	0.0%	21	22.1%

Of the 95 respondents, there were 45 respondents (47.5%) who had experience of child maltreatment in the low category and levels of dating violence behavior that were also low. This illustrates that the lower the experience of child maltreatment an individual has, the smaller the individual's tendency to commit dating violence. In addition, 21 respondents (22%) had experience of child maltreatment in the high category and levels of dating violence behavior were also high. This also illustrates that the experience of child maltreatment tends to be an example for the individual who experiences it so that it will be carried out when starting a relationship in adulthood and is considered normal to do. Individuals who witnessed and experienced violence as children tend to learn to use violence in their relationships as adults to control their partners and gain obedience from their partners [13].

There were 4 respondents (4.2%) who had experience of child maltreatment in the high category, but were in the low category regarding dating violence behavior. This means that despite experiencing violence in childhood, the individual does not show a high tendency to commit violence in adulthood. This could happen due to other influencing factors so that individuals who experience child maltreatment do not use violence as a way to hurt their partners [23].

The results of this study found that the influence of child maltreatment on dating violence behavior in young adults who were dating showed a coefficient value of .617 (61.7%). This illustrates that with the experience of child maltreatment in individuals who are in dating relationships as adults, they have a tendency to engage in violent behavior in dating (dating violence). The results of this study are in line with the results of research conducted by [13], there is a significant positive relationship between childhood and adolescent trauma and levels of aggressiveness in adulthood. Apart from that, research conducted by Febryana et al. [24], also states that there is a significant relationship between the experience of child maltreatment and acts of violence in dating, which means that the higher the level of experience of child maltreatment, the more likely it is to carry out violent behavior in dating (dating violence) is also increasing.

V. CONCLUSION

Based on the research results and discussion and explanation, it can be concluded that child maltreatment has a positive and significant effect (61.7%) on dating violence behavior in young adults who are dating. This means that the higher the experience of child maltreatment in young adults who are dating, the higher the tendency to engage in dating violence behavior. Individuals who experience child maltreatment tend to think that violence is a normal thing to do to get what they want. Individuals who have experienced childhood maltreatment also tend to imitate the violence they experience or see and do it in relationships in adulthood as a form of controlling, controlling or getting the things they want from their partners.

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