



Research Paper

The Influence of Family Functioning and Peer Attachment on the Tendency of Cyberbullying Behavior

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ABSTRACT: This study aims to investigate the impact of family functioning and peer attachment on tendencies towards cyberbullying behavior. A total of 251 adolescents from SMP Negeri 27 Medan were selected as research subjects using an accidental sampling method to gather data on cyberbullying behavior tendencies, family functioning, and peer attachment. The results revealed that family functioning and peer attachment have a significant negative correlation with tendencies towards cyberbullying behavior. This indicates that feeling supported by family and having supportive mutual relationships with peers can reduce the tendency for cyberbullying behavior. The implications of these findings provide valuable insights for reducing the tendency for cyberbullying behavior among teenagers by enhancing positive interaction patterns.

KEYWORDS: Cyberbullying Behavior Tendencies, Family Functioning, Peer Attachment

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I. INTRODUCTION

In today's era, there are several issues among teenagers, one of which is related to bullying. Bullying is an act that arises from the misuse of power or authority, both physically and mentally, by an individual or a group. Data from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) then found that the prevalence of bullying among students in Indonesia is 41.1%, ranking fifth highest out of 78 countries experiencing the most bullying [1]. In the past decade a relatively new form of bullying has emerged through the use of modern communication technology, often referred to as cyberbullying [2].

Cyberbullying refers to bullying that occurs in an electronic context such as email, blogs, instant messaging, text messages, and is directed towards someone who may not easily defend themselves [3]. One of the most vulnerable age groups to cyberbullying behavior is teenagers. Data also found that as many as 66.20% of teenagers aged 10-14 are internet users and 80.40% are junior high school students [4]. The high level of internet usage then increases the risk of cyberbullying.

This research focuses on the phenomenon of cyberbullying among early adolescents because studies show that cyberbullying prevention efforts are carried out during this period [5]. In this paper, the discussion will focus on tendency of cyberbullying that occurs at SMP Negeri 27 Medan.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Early adolescence is a transitional period for individuals to develop the social responsibility behaviors needed to enter the adult world [6]. Adolescents are also a vulnerable generation due to the changes they undergo. Moreover, with exposure to the internet, various impacts emerge, including cyberbullying behavior. Cyberbullying is defined as intentional and repetitive behavior through electronic text media or the internet [7]. Cyberbullying itself has several aspects, including repetition, intention or purpose, harm, and imbalance of power.

The factors that influence the tendency for cyberbullying behavior include family and peer influence [8]. Family functioning, according to The McMaster Model of Family Functioning (MMFF), is defined as a state within the family where each unit of the family is capable of effectively carrying out basic tasks related to

problem-solving, communication, roles, affective responsiveness, affective involvement, and behavioral control in everyday family life [9]. Peer attachment is an individual's perception of the extent to which they and their peers can understand each other, communicate effectively, and also feel comfortable and secure with their peers [10]. This attachment can be seen from three aspects: communication, trust, and alienation. High levels of family functioning [11] and peer attachment [12] can then reduce the tendency for cyberbullying behavior

III. PURPOSE AND METHODS

This study aims to examine the impact of family functioning and peer attachment on the tendency of cyberbullying behavior. The participants in this study are 251 students of SMP Negeri 27 Medan (aged 12-15 years) selected using accidental sampling technique. The tendency of cyberbullying behavior is measured using the Cyberbullying Offending Scale developed by Patchin and Hinduja. The Cyberbullying Offending Scale measuring tool has undergone a back-translation process and has been tested for reliability and validity by Fauzia.

The research instrument's scale utilizes a Likert scale with a total of 9 favorable items, comprising four answer choices: "Never", "Once", "Sometimes", "Almost Always", with scores ranging from 0 to 3. The validity of the measuring instrument is assessed through professional judgment. The correlation coefficient results indicate 0.918.

IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The results of the description of the student of SMP Negeri 27 Medan data are shown as follows:

Table 1. Demographic Data of Respondents
Number of Respondents
(n=251)

Characteristic	Number of Respondents (n=251)	Percentage
Sex		
Male	119	47.40%
Female	132	52.60%
Age (Years)		
12	30	11.90%
13	119	47.50%
14	89	35.50%
15	13	5.10%
Social Media		
1 Type	37	14.74%
2 Type	39	15.53%
3 Type	81	32.27%
4 Type	58	23.11%
5 Type	28	11.16%
6 Type	8	3.19%
Living With		
Parents	239	95.20%
Family other than parents.	12	4.80%

Based on gender, 132 or 52.60% of respondents were female and 119 or 47.40% of respondents were male. Based on age, 119 respondents (47.50%) is 13 years old, 89 respondents (35.50%) is 14 years old, 30 respondents (11.90%) is 12 years old, and 13 respondents (5.10%) is 15 years old, Based on social media, the 81 respondents (32.27%) use 3 types of social media, 58 respondents (23.11%) use 4 types of social media, 39 respondents (15.53%) use 2 types of social media, 37 respondents (14.47%) use 1 types of social media, 28 respondents (11.16%) use 5 types of social media, and 8 respondents (3.19%) use 6 types of social media. Based on living status, the 239 respondents (95.20%) live with their parents, while others live with family other than parents (4.80%).

Table 2. Categorization of Cyberbullying Behavior Tendencies

Raw Score	Categories	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
$X < 9$	Low	106	42.2
$9 \leq X < 18$	Medium	139	55.4
$X \geq 18$	High	6	2.4
TOTAL		251	100

Based on Table 2, the categorization of cyberbullying behavior tendencies among students of SMP Negeri 27 Medan in this study shows that 106 students have a low tendency for cyberbullying behavior, accounting for 42.20%, 139 students have a moderate tendency for cyberbullying behavior, representing 55.40%, and 6 students have a high tendency for cyberbullying behavior, making up 2.40%. Therefore, it can be concluded that generally, students of SMP Negeri 27 Medan in this study exhibit a moderate tendency for cyberbullying behavior.

Table 3. Categorization of Family Functioning

Raw Score	Categories	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
$X < 24$	Low	2	.80
$24 \leq X < 36$	Medium	112	44.60
$X \geq 36$	High	137	54.60
TOTAL		251	100

Based on Table 3, the categorization of family functioning among students of SMP Negeri 27 Medan in this study shows that 2 students have a low level family functioning, accounting for .80%, 112 students have a moderate level tendency for cyberbullying behavior, representing 44.60%, and 137 students have a high level family functioning, making up 54.60%. Therefore, it can be concluded that generally, students of SMP Negeri 27 Medan have a high level of family functioning.

Table 4. Categorization of Peer Attachment

Raw Score	Categories	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
$X < 50$	Low	2	0.8
$50 \leq X < 200$	Medium	249	99.2
$X \geq 200$	High	0	0
TOTAL		251	100

Based on Table 4, the categorization of peer attachment among students of SMP Negeri 27 Medan in this study shows that 2 students have a low level of peer attachment, accounting for .80%, 249 students have a moderate level of peer attachment, representing 99.20%, and 0 students have a high level of peer attachment, making up 0%. Therefore, it can be concluded that generally, students of SMP Negeri 27 Medan have a moderate level of peer attachment

Table 5. Anova Table

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	1577.325	2	788.663	66.170	.000
Residual	2955.862	248	11.919		
Total	4533.187	250			

Based on Table 5, it can be seen that the results of Multiple Linear Regression analysis on the research data indicate an F-value of 66.170 with a significance value of $p = .000$ ($p < .05$). Meanwhile, the F-table value

for $N = 251$ and significance $p = .05$ is obtained as 3.03. Thus, the computed F -value $> F$ -table ($66.170 > 3.03$), indicating that family functioning and peer attachment together significantly influence the tendency of cyberbullying behavior.

Table 6. Multiple Regression Equation

	Unstandardized	Coefficient	Standardized	T
		Std Error		
(Constant)	36.665	1.762		20.805
<i>Family Functioning</i>	-.467	.045	-.566	-10.360
<i>Peer Attachment</i>	-.022	.020	-.062	-1.128

Based on Table 6, it can be observed that when the variables of family functioning and peer attachment are both valued at 0, the tendency for cyberbullying behavior has a value of 36.665. The regression coefficient value for the family functioning variable is negative at -0.467, and for the peer attachment variable, it is negative at -0.022. This means that for each increase of one unit in family functioning, cyberbullying behavior decreases by -0.467, and for each increase of one unit in peer attachment, the tendency for cyberbullying behavior decreases by -0.022 among students of SMP Negeri 27 Medan.

V. CONCLUSION

The students of SMP Negeri 27 Medan in this study generally exhibit a moderate tendency for cyberbullying behavior. Family functioning and peer attachment together have a significant negative effect on the tendency for cyberbullying behavior. This explains that when adolescents perceive high family functioning and have strong peer attachment, it reduces their inclination to engage in cyberbullying behavior. Conversely, when adolescents perceive low family functioning and have weak peer attachment, it increases their inclination to engage in cyberbullying behavior.

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