Advances in Natural and Applied Sciences, 7(4) Special 2013, Pages: 377-381

AENSI Journals

Advances in Natural and Applied Sciences

Journal home page: www.aensiweb.com/anas/index.html

Parent-child Interaction in a Low Cost Housing in Malaysia

Zakiyah Jamaluddin

School of Social Development, Universiti Utara Malaysia, 06010 Sintok, Kedah, Malaysia

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:
Received 14 November 2013
Received in revised form 24 December 2013
Accepted 28 December 2013
Available online 18 January 2014

Key words:
Parent-child interaction; adolescent; misbehaviour; low cost housing

ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to find whether there is a relationship between parent-child interaction and adolescent misbehaviour in one of the low cost housing flats area in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Data collection was done using the questionnaire. A total of 333 sub-samples of parents and 333 sub-sample of adolescent had been randomly chosen as the survey study sample. Result showed that there was a significant correlation between adolescent misbehaviour with parent-child interaction. Further, a significant difference in parent-child interaction has resulted with regard to parent's ethnicity, adolescent's ethnicity and adolescent's sex ($p<0.01$). There was also significant difference on adolescent misbehaviour based on parent's ethnicity, adolescent's ethnicity and adolescent's sex ($p<0.01$).

© 2013 AENSI Publisher All rights reserved.

To Cite This Article: Zakiyah J., Parent-child Interaction in a Low Cost Housing in Malaysia. **Adv. in Nat. Appl. Sci.,** *7(4): 377-381, 2013*

INTRODUCTION

Parental control and bonding, parenting style and family environment quality have had more association to the delinquent behaviours and juvenile crimes. Adolescence's living in the problematic family context increased the risk of developing deviance behaviour such as violence, vandalism, theft, alcohol addiction and drugs (Loeber & Stouthamer-Loeber, 1998; Patterson *et al*., 1992). Adolescence that were having closed ties with their parents were found less involved in drug addiction (Hoffman, 1995; Resnick *et al*., 1997; Sokol-Katz, Dunham & Zimmerman, 1997), drugs misuse (Ford, 2009; Mounts, 2002; Seydlitz & Jenkins, 1998) alcohol addiction (Jarvinen, 2009; Thomas, Reifman, Barnes & Farrell, 2000). Study by *Yayasan Stategik Sosial* found 64% of respondents of Indian juveniles were from single parent family. This supported most studies in western countries that children from single parent family were more prone to involve in delinquent behaviours, drug, alcohol and premarital sex (Covey & Tam, 1990; Crouter *et al*., 1990; Dawson, 1991; Dornbusch *et al*., 1985; Newcomer & Udry, 1987; Steinberg, 1987). In contrast very few studies in Malaysia found that adolescence involved in delinquent behaviours came from both biological parents yet less supervision by parents (Rohany *et al*., 2008; Rokiah & Muhamad Fuad; 2008, Samsudin, 2007).

MATERIALS AND METHOD

A total of 333 sub-samples of parents and 333 sub-sample of adolescent had been randomly chosen as the survey study sample, from the 2,496 of the total population in a low cost housing area in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The selection was based on the simple random sampling where each element in the population has the same probability to be chosen as sample. The location of study was chosen based on the Royal Malaysian Police Department (PDRM) and Welfare Department of Kuala Lumpur report that this area was in a high rate of social problems. Questionnaire was used to gather the primary data, which was divided into two sets for parent and adolescents respectively. Demographic factors were analysed descriptively using frequency, means and percentages. Inferential statistics such as ANOVA, t-Test and Pearson correlation were used to examine the difference and the relationship between parent-child interaction and adolescence misbehaviour.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Respondents' Demographic Profiles:

For parents sub sample, 62.5% fathers and 37.5% mothers were selected as study sample. It was found that 53.5% of those aged between 41-50 years, 93.4% were married and 63.6% had secondary school education

Corresponding Author: Zakiyah, Jamaluddin, School of Social Development, Universiti Utara Malaysia, 06010 Sintok, Kedah, Malaysia
E-mail: zakiyah@uum.edu.my

Advances in Natural and Applied Sciences, 7(4) Special 2013, Pages: 377-381

background with Lower Education Certificate (SRP) until Malaysian Higher Schooling Certificate (STPM). About 74% were working, 3.5% were pensioners, 24.7% were unemployed and the rest were housewives.

Table 1: Socio demographic characteristics of the parents.

Demographic characteristics	Frequency	Percentage
Gender		
Male	208	62.5
Female	125	37.5
Age		
21-30	2	0.6
31-40	62	18.6
41-50	178	53.5
51-60	83	24.9
60 and above	8	2.4
Race		
Malay	112	33.6
Chinese	118	35.4
Indian	103	30.9
Religion		
Muslim	112	33.6
Buddhist	103	30.9
Hindu	95	28.5
Christian	20	6.0
Others	3	0.9
Marital status		
Married	311	93.4
Widow	8	2.4
Widower	14	4.2
Level of Education		
None	16	4.8
Primary	97	29.1
SRP/LCE	80	24.0
SPM/MCE	120	36.0
STPM/HSC	12	3.6
Teacher's College	2	0.6
University	3	0.9

The majority of the respondents (67%) worked in informal sectors (labourer/unskilled workers) with most worked as drivers, factory workers and traders. Meanwhile 38% were working in the private sector, and 9.2% working in the government sector. About 24% of parents that self-employed as traders, taxi drivers, buses and lorry drivers, mechanics, seamstress, carpenters, contractors and cooks. A total of 38.8% (93) people earned between RM501-RM1000 and only 22 earned RM2000 and above. However, there were still some respondents earned below RM500 (22 people) and consequently group as poor.

Meanwhile for the adolescent sub sample, there were 58.3% aged between 14-17 years old. The majority (89.1%) was still in secondary school. Results showed that only 230 respondents still studying and 103 respondents have finished schooling with almost 80% were Malaysian Education Certificate (SPM) graded. For the 103 respondents that have finished schooling, only 69% were employed with the majority (25.5%) worked in factory and 60.8% worked in the private sector.

Parent-child Interaction and Adolescent Misbehaviour:

T-Test showed there was significant difference for the parent-child interaction based on the adolescent sex ($p<0.01$, $t=-3.212$) on the two-tailed significant level. This means that there were differences between parents-child interaction for male and female adolescent. The mean value for female was higher at 38.0455 compared with male adolescent at 35.9776. This clarified female adolescent interact more with their parents than males adolescent.

ANOVA test showed $F=7.533$ and $p<0.01$. This means that there was a difference in parent-child interaction based on parent's ethnicity. There was also a difference in parents-child interaction based on adolescent ethnicity factor ($F=6.311$, $p<0.01$). Results showed $r = -.455$ and $p<0.01$ for the parents-child variable and adolescent misbehaviour for the parents sub sample. This means that there was a negative significant correlation between parents-child interaction and adolescent misbehaviour. This means that the lower the parents-child interaction level, the higher the adolescent misbehaviour level. Pearson's correlation test also showed that there was a negative significant correlation between parents-child interaction and adolescent misbehaviour ($r=-.471$, $p<0.01$). This means that the lower the parents-child interaction level, the higher the adolescent misbehaviour level. Result also showed that majority of the adolescent have both their biological parents (93.4%).

This study showed that there was a significant difference in parent-child interaction and adolescence misbehaviour based on adolescence sex, parent's ethnicity and adolescent's ethnicity ($p<0.01$). It was found that

Advances in Natural and Applied Sciences, 7(4) Special 2013, Pages: 377-381

female adolescent were more interacting with their parents and less involved in adolescent misbehaviour. There was also a negative significant correlation between parent-child interaction and adolescent misbehaviour for both the parents and adolescent's sub samples ($p<0.01$). This showed that less interaction makes adolescence to get more involved in misbehaviour and vice versa parallel to previous studies that linked to the bonding, supervision and parenting styles with deviance behaviour (Ford, 2009; Hoffman, 1995; Jarvinen, 2009; Loeber & Stouthamer-Loeber, 1998; Mounts, 2002; Patterson *et al*., 1992; Resnick *et al*., 1997; Seydlitz & Jenkins, 1998; Sokol-Katz, Dunham & Zimmerman, 1997; Thomas, Reifman, Barnes & Farrell, 2000). Results also showed that 93.4% of the adolescent have both their biological parents. This findings was contradict to the previous studies that children's from single parent families were more prone to be involved in delinquent behaviours (Covey & Tam, 1990; Crouter *et al*., 1990; Dawson, 1991; Dornbusch *et al*., 1985; Newcomer & Udry, 1987; Steinberg, 1987). However, this is in line with Rohany *et al*., (2008), Rokiah & Muhamad Fuad (2008) and Samsudin (2007) studies that found adolescence involved in delinquent behaviours are from both biological parents but less supervision by parents were higher from single parents.

Table 2: Socio demographic characteristics of the adolescents.

Demographic characteristics	Frequency	Percentage
Gender		
Male	223	67
female	110	33
Age		
10-13	22	6.6
14-17	194	58.3
18-22	117	35.1
Race		
Malay	112	33.6
Chinese	118	35.4
Indians	103	30.9
Religion		
Muslim	112	33.6
Buddhist	102	30.6
Hindu	97	29.1
Christian	18	5.4
Others	4	1.2
Studying status		
Primary	11	4.8
Secondary	205	89.1
Matriculation	1	0.4
College	10	4.3
University	3	1.3
Level of Education		
Primary	2	1.9
PMR	3	2.9
SPM	82	79.6
STPM	9	8.7
College	6	5.8
Teacher's College/University	1	1.0

Conclusion:

This study found that parent-child interaction has an effect to the adolescent misbehaviour that can lead to social problems amongst adolescent. This finding was very much associated with the gap in the parent-child interaction in the study area. Parent's failure to act as a mechanism to curb adolescent misbehaviour resulted the adolescent to search for something that can fulfil the void inside them. They felt that the environment outside the houses and housing area can fulfil their needs and desire. They defined peer groups as a reference groups that plays a very significant roles in diffusing adolescent misbehaviour. The 24 hours cyber café had also been assume as the main factor in diffusing adolescent misbehaviour. It was hoped that the neighbours could react as an extended family to the adolescent to curb the adolescent misbehaviours. The neighbours then can act as an informal social control towards the adolescent. Good values such as respecting the neighbours and the elderly should be encouraged to the adolescent since younger age. The communities should also plan various community-based programme in order to make the adolescent feel that they are useful and be a part of the communities and to encourage the sense of belongings spirit.

REFERENCES

Ahmad Nurulazam, M.Z., K. Mustapa, 1995. Lepak di kalangan pelajar-kajian di negeri Perak dan Pulau Pinang. In M. N. Mohamed & S. Marican (Eds.), *Seminar Kebangsaan Gejala Sosial Proceeding* (85-99). Sintok:Sekolah Pembangunan Sosial, Universiti Utara Malaysia.

Covey, L.S., O. Tam, 1990. Depressive mood, the single parent home, and adolescent cigarette smoking. *American Journal of Public Health, 80:* 1330-1333.

Crouter, A.C., S.M. MacDermid, S.M. McHale, M. Perry-Jenkins, 1990. Parental monitoring and perceptions of children's school performance and conduct in dual and single-earner families. *Developmental Psychology, 26:* 649-657.

Cubbin, C., F.B. LeClere, G.S. Smith, 2000. Socioeconomic status and injury mortality: Individual and neighbourhood determinants. *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health, 54:* 517-524.

Dawson, D.A., 1991. Family structure and children's health and well being:Data from the 1988 National Health Interview Survey on Child Health. *Journal of Marriage and Family, 53:* 573-584.

Dornbusch, S.M., J.M. Carlsmith, S.J. Bushwall, P.L. Ritter, H. Leiderman, A.H. Harstorf, *et al*., 1985. Single parents, extended households, and the control of adolescents. *Child Development, 56*(326-341).

Ford, J.A., 2009. Nonmedical prescription drug use among adolescents: The influence of bonds to family and school. *Youth and Society, 40*(3): 336-352.

Fourth Malaysia Plan, 1981. *Fourth Malaysia Plan, 1981-1985*. Kuala Lumpur: National Printing Department.

Gordon-Larsen, P., M.C. Nelson, P. Page, B.M. Popkin, 2006. Inequality in the built environment underlies key health disparities in physical activity and obesity. *Pediatrics, 117:* 417-424.

Hoffman, J.P., 1995. The effects of family structure and family relations on adolescent marijuana use. *International Journal of Addictions, 30;* 1207-1241.

Iran, H., 1995. Tingkah laku lepak remaja luar bandar: strategi menangani masalah. In N.M. Mahmood & M. Sabitha (Eds.), *Seminar Kebangsaan Gejala Sosial Proceeding* (137-148). Sintok: Sekolah Pembangunan Sosial, Universiti Utara Malaysia.

Jarvinen, M., 2009. Governing adolescent drinking. *Youth and Society, 40*(3): 377-402.

Kohen, D., J. Brooks-Gunn, T. Leventhal, C. Hertzman, 2002. Neighborhood income and physical and social disorder in Canada:Associates with young children's competencies. *Child Development, 73:* 1844-1860.

Loeber, R., M. Stouthamer-Loeber, 1998. Development of juvenile aggression and violence: Some common misconception and controversies. *American Psychologist, 53:* 242-259.

Mounts, N.S., 2002. Parental management of adolescent peer relationships in context:The role of parenting style. *Journal of Family Psychology, 16:* 58-69.

Mustapa, K., M.Z. Ahmad Nurulazam, 1995. Profail aktiviti remaja lepak. In N. M. Mahmood & M. Sabitha (Eds.), *Seminar Kebangsaan Gejala Sosial Proceeding* (33-56). Sintok: Sekolah Pembangunan Sosial, Universiti Utara Malaysia.

Newcomer, S., J.R. Udry, 1987. Parental marital status effects on adolescent sexual behavior. *Journal of Marriage and Family, 49:* 235-240.

Nurizan, Y., 1998. Kualiti perumahan dan kualiti hidup. *ANALISIS, 5*(1&2): 133-149.

Nurizan, Y., H. Ahmad Hariza, P. Laily, S. Bukryman, 2004a. Status sosio-ekonomi isirumah petempatan kos rendah di Johor Bharu. In P. Laily & Y. Nurizan (Eds.), *Kesejahteraan Isirumah Johor Darul Takzim* (49-64). Serdang: Penerbit Universiti Putra Malaysia.

Nurizan, Y., S. Bukryman, P. Laily, H. Ahmad Hariza, 2004. Kesejahteraan remaja di petempatan kos rendah di Johor Bharu. In P. Laily & Y. Nurizan (Eds.), *Kesejahteraan Isirumah Johor Darul Takzim* (84-95). Serdang: Penerbit Universiti Putra Malaysia.

Nurizan, Y., A. Halimah, 1992. Kepuasan dan defisit perumahan di rumah kos rendah di Semenanjung Malaysia. *Manusia dan Masyarakat, 7:* 3-20.

Nurizan, Y., A. Halimah, 1993. Space deficit in low cost households of Peninsular Malaysia. *Kajian Malaysia, X1*(1): 79-92.

Nurizan, Y., M.N. Norlela, 1993. Kesejahteraan remaja di rumah pangsa:tumpuan kepada ruang belajar dan aktiviti sosial. *Jurnal Pendidik dan Pendidikan, 12:* 92-102.

Odgers, C.L., T.E. Moffitt, L.M. Tach, R.J. Sampson, A. Taylor, C.L. Matthews, *et al*., 2009. The protective effects of neighborhood collective efficacy on British growing up in deprivation:A developmental anaylsis. *Developmental Psychology, 45*(4): 942-957.

Pascall, M.J., M.L. Hubbard, 1998. Effects of neighborhood and family stressors on African-American male adolescents' self worth and propensity for violent behavior. *Journal of Counseling and Clinical Psychology, 5:* 825-831.

Patterson, G.R., J.B. Reid, T.J. Dishion, 1992. *Antisocial boys*. Eugene: Castalia Press.

Resnick, M.D., P.S. Bearman, R.W. Blum, K.E. Bauman, K.M. Harris, J. Jones, 1997. Protecting adolescents from harm:Findings from the National Longitudinal Study on Adolescent Health. *Journal of the American Medical Association, 278:* 823-832.

Rohany, N., A.Z. Zainah, Y. Fatimah, K. Rozainee, H. Lokmanul Hakim, 2008. *Kefungsian keluarga dan jenis kesalahan dalam kalangan remaja juvana di pusat pemulihan akhlak.* International Conference of Youth Research (ICYR08), 16-17 December, Marriot Hotel, Putrajaya, Malaysia.

Advances in Natural and Applied Sciences, 7(4) Special 2013, Pages: 377-381

Rokiah, I., A.K. Muhamad Fuad, 2008. *Golongan muda Mat Rempit: Suatu ekspresi sub budaya.* International Conference on Youth Research (ICYR08), 16-17 December, Marriot Hotel, Putrajaya, Malaysia.

Sampson, R.J., S.W. Raudenbush, F. Earls, 1997. Neighborhoods and violent crime: A multilevel study of collective efficacy. *Science, 277*(15): 918-924.

Samsudin, A.R., 2007. *Generasi belia: Satu cetusan pandangan*. Putrajaya: Institut Penyelidikan Pembangunan Belia Malaysia, Kementerian Belia dan Sukan.

Samsudin, A.R., 1995. Isu remaja dan gejala sosial:Potensi peranan komunikasi pembangunan. In N.M. Mahmood & M. Sabitha (Eds.), *Seminar Kebangsaan Gejala Sosial Proceeding* (122-136). Sintok: Sekolah Pembangunan Sosial, Universiti Utara Malaysia.

Seydlitz, R., P. Jenkins, 1998. The influence of families, friends, schools, and community on delinquent behavior. In T. P. Gullotta, G. R. Adams & R. Montemayor (Eds.), *Delinquent violent youth:Theory and interventions* (53-97). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Skogan, W.G., 1988. Community organisations and crime. In M.Tonry & N. Morris (Eds.), *Crime and justice: A review of the research* (Vol. 10). Chicago: Univerisity of Chicago Press.

Sokol-Katz, J., R. Dunham, R. Zimmerman, 1997. Family structure versus parental attachment in controlling adolescent deviant behavior: A social control model. *Adolescence, 32:* 199-215.

Steinberg, L., 1987. Single parents, stepparents, and the susceptibility of adolescent to antisocial pressure. *Child Development, 58:* 269-275.

Taylor, R., 2001. The ecology of crime, fear and delinquency: social disorganization versus social efficacy. In R. Paternoster & R.Bachman (Eds.), *Explaining criminals and crime* (124-139). Los Angeles, CA.: Roxbury Press.

Thomas, G., A. Reifman, G.M. Barnes, M.P. Farrell, 2000. Delayed onset of drunkenness as a protective factor for adolescent misuse and sexual risk taking:A longitudinal study. *Deviant Behaviour, 21*(181-220).

Victor, J.N., 2004. *Kajian juvana India.* Simposium Kebangsaan Kebajikan Kanak-kanak 2004. 21-22 Julai., The Gurney Resort Hotel & Residences, Pulau Pinang.

Winkleby, M.A., C. Cubbin, 2003. Influence of individual and neighborhood socioeconomic status on mortality among Black, Mexican-American, and White women and men in the United States. *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health, 57:* 444-452.

Winslow, E.B., D.S. Shaw, 2007. Impact of neighborhood disadvantage on overt behavior problems during early childhood. *Aggressive Behavior, 33:* 207-219.

Yahaya, I., 1995. Migrasi keluar dan permasalahan sosial di kalangan remaja FELDA. *Antropologi dan Sosiologi, 22:* 97-113.