

DESCRIPTION OF SELF-STIGMA AMONG CHILDREN IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW

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ABSTRACT

The community's stigma of perpetrators of crime, leading prisoners to have a self-stigma that is believed to be his identity, including children in conflict with the law at Lembaga Pembinaan Khusus Anak (LPKA). Self-stigma makes a person feel worthless, dangerous, and having difficulty reintegrating into society. The purpose of this study was to find a description of self-stigma of children in conflict with the law in LPKA. This type of research was quantitative descriptive, with a population of 113 children in conflict with the law, using consecutive sampling techniques to 88 people. The instrument used was Self-Stigma of Individuals with Criminal Records (SSICR), with validity values between 0.320-0.914 and reliability values for perceived stigma 0.86, stereotype agreement 0.71, and internalized stigma 0.85. Data was analyzed by univariate analysis. The result showed that median value of internalized stigma which was the last process of self-stigma was lower than the two previous domains, so the level of self-stigma of children in conflict with the law at LPKA was said to be low. Based on the results, self-stigma of children in conflict with the law at LPKA were low, it needs attention from the LPKA to improve education development, so that children in conflict with the law form a self-stigma, that they have good intelligence.

Keywords: children; conflict with the law; lembaga pembinaan khusus anak (lpka); prisoners; self-stigma

INTRODUCTION

A children in conflict with the law is defined as a child who is a maximum of 18 years old and is serving a criminal period in a juvenile prison. As a form of accountability for criminal acts, a child must undergo a period of coaching at the Lembaga Pembinaan Khusus Anak (LPKA) or previously known as Child Prison. The Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAI) explained that there were 9,266 children in conflict with the law in the period 2011-2017 and every year there were around 2000 children in conflict with the law in Indonesia. West Java has a fairly high child crime rate, which is in second place with 218 children in August 2017 and fourth with 191 children in January 2018. Thus, LPKA Class II Bandung is used as a research area by researchers, because the crime rate in West Java is said to be high enough. Although legally the age of 12-18 years is called a child, but if viewed from the side of psychological development that age is included in the category of teenagers. According to Soetjiningsih (2004) adolescents are individuals aged 10-18 years for girls and 12-20 years for boys. In this period, a person is in the formation of self-identity, according to Erikson's theory of development, at that age they will be faced with important questions about "who am I?" and "where am I going?" (Armeliza, Nauli, & Erwin, 2013).

Children in conflict with the law will have a different life from children their age. A person with a criminal record is a group that is highly stigmatized by society. Society tends to perceive someone with a criminal history as untrustworthy, unintelligent, and dangerous. This excessive environmental stigma causes ex-convicts to lose confidence and feel anxious about their condition when their sentence is over and they return to society.

Stigma is a very broad attribute that can make individuals lose their identity (Major & O'Brien, 2005). Stigma is divided into 2 forms, namely public stigma and self-stigma. Public stigma includes the notion that people with criminal records are dangerous people. Meanwhile, self-stigma is formed due to the internalization of the public stigma. Self-stigma does not form by itself, so there are processes in it, namely perceived stigma, stereotype agreement, and internalized stigma. Each of these domains is formulated by Moore, Tangney & Stuewig (2016), namely the perception of an inmate related to the general public's view of a criminal offender (perceived stigma), the convict's approval of the general public's view of a criminal actor (stereotype agreement), and internalization of views. the community becomes part of itself as a prisoner (internalized stigma).

Once the negative label is internalized, the person will adjust his behavior to the label that is pinned on him. Atmasasmita (2005) states that the formation of criminal character and severe behavioral deviations in ex-convicts is triggered by a stamp or label attached to them (Hafrida, Monita, & Siregar, 2015). Early detection of self-stigma in children in conflict with the law needs to be done, the existence of self-stigma makes it difficult for someone to seek service assistance in health, public, or work. The more children who become perpetrators of repeated crimes because of their weak readiness and low self-esteem due to self-stigma, the crime rate is getting worse.

Therefore, it is important to know the level of self-stigma of a child prisoner, because it will affect their reintegration process into society and can destroy their hopes of achieving their respective dreams. Research shows that it is more difficult for young inmates to return to society than adult inmates (Chui & Cheng, 2013). Based on the description above, the aim of the researcher is to conduct research to find out the description of the self-stigma of children in conflict with the law.

METHODS

This study used a quantitative descriptive design with the variable being self-stigma which consists of 3 domains that become the process of forming self-stigma, namely perceived stigma, stereotype agreement, and internalized stigma. This study was conducted on children in conflict with the law aged 12-18 years in LPKA Klas IIA Bandung, with a population of 113 people and a sample of 88 people, based on the consecutive sampling. This study was voluntary and each respondent who was willing to participate signed an informed consent agreement.

The questionnaire in this study used an instrument compiled by Moore, Tangney & Stuewig (2016) Self-Stigma of Individuals with Criminal Records (SSICR) which was then translated into the researcher's language, namely Indonesian. The instrument consists of 3 parts with a total of 27 questions. The first part states the perception of children in conflict with the law related to public stigma against criminals (perceived stigma). The second part is about the approval of children in conflict with the law related to public stigma against criminals (stereotype agreement). The last part is about the acceptance of children in conflict with the law against the public stigma related to criminals as their identity (internalized stigma). The scale uses a Likert 1-4 from "false" to "very true".

Demographic data requested by the researchers included age, education, religion, ethnicity, parental occupation, frequency of family visits, length of sentence, and reasons for entering LPKA. The validity test was carried out through face validity and construct validity to 13

children in conflict with the law at LKPA Bandung. In addition, the instrument has also been tested for reliability, the reliability value of Cronbach's alpha is 0.86 for perceived stigma, 0.71 for stereotype agreement, and 0.85 for internalized stigma.

The data analysis used in this research is univariate analysis. The data collected was analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 23.0. The normality test of the data by Kolmogorov Smirnov showed that the data were not normally distributed, so the analysis used a central tendency, namely the median value, minimum value, maximum value and interquartile range. Demographic data is displayed in the form of frequency distribution and percentage. Self-stigma is a process, where the result in the final domain (internalized stigma) is the interpretation of self-stigma. The score calculation is done per domain variable and the score range and median are seen. The higher the score in the last domain (internalized stigma), the higher the self-stigma of children in conflict with the law at LPKA Bandung. Self-stigma in prisoners is something that has a negative value.

RESULTS

Table 1.

Frequency Distibution of Children in Conflict with The Law Characteristic (n=88)		
Respondents Characteristic	f	%
Level of Education		
Unfinish Elementary School	13	14.8
Elementary School	18	20.5
Junior High School	34	38.6
Senior High School	23	26.1
Ethnic Group		
Sunda	60	68.2
Jawa	8	9.1
Betawi	17	19.3
Batak	2	2.3
Flores	1	1.1
Religion		
Islam	88	100
Family Visit Frequency		
Never	17	19.3
Seldom (1-2 times per month)	14	16.0
(3-4 times per month)	53	60.2
	4	4.5
Parental Occupation		
Entrepreneur	24	27.3
Trader	9	10.2
Housewife	3	3.4
Laborers	25	28.4
Farmers	8	9.1
Does not work	9	10.2
Others	10	11.4
Length of Sentence		
>= 1 year	71	80.7
< 1 year	17	19.3

Respondents Characteristic	f	%
Cause of admission to LPKA		
Breaking rule	25	28.5
Child protection	32	36.4
Robbery	9	10.2
Murder	4	4.5
Theft	8	9.1
Persecution	3	3.4
Sharp weapons	4	4.6
Extortion	1	1.1
Immoral	1	1.1
Narcotics	1	1.1

Overall respondents in this study were male, the majority of junior high school (SMP) 38.6%. More than half (68.2%) are Sundanese and all are Muslim (100%). In the visit data, the majority of children in conflict with the law are rarely encountered (1-2 times/month) by their families as much as 60.2% with the most parental occupations being laborers (28.4%). Most of the sentences received by children in conflict with the law at LPKA Bandung are over 1 year (80.7%) with child protection crimes of 36.4%.

Table 2.
 Self-stigma of Children in conflict with the law (n=88)

Domain	Kemungkinan Skor	Skor minimum-maksimum	Median	IQR
<i>Perceived stigma</i>	9 – 36	9 – 30	16,0	7
<i>Stereotype agreement</i>	9 – 36	9 – 31	15,0	8
<i>Internalized stigma</i>	9 – 36	9 – 32	12,5	7

The results of the research analysis showed that the distribution of the data was not normal, so the data were analyzed using the median and interquartile range. The median in the internalized stigma domain is 12.5 with a maximum value of 32. It can be said that the internalized stigma or stigma internalized by children in conflict with the law is at a low level, strengthened because internalized stigma is the last domain and has a lower number than the previous two process domains. Therefore, the self-stigma of children in conflict with the law in LPKA Bandung is said to be low.

DISCUSSION

Based on the distribution data of respondents' answers, it shows that there are items that have the highest average value in each domain. In the domain of perceived stigma, (I think the public believes, most people with criminal records are below average in intelligence, dangerous, and unpredictable). In the domain of stereotype agreement (I think, most people with criminal records are below average in intelligence, are unpredictable, and can't be trusted). Meanwhile, for the domain of internalized stigma, namely (because I have a criminal record, I am below average in intelligence, unpredictable, and a bad person).

After data processing and analysis, it was found that the median value for each domain was 16 for perceived stigma, 15 for stereotype agreement, and 12.5 for internalized stigma. The median in the internalized stigma domain, ie the last domain has a lower number than the two previous process domains. Therefore, self-stigma of children in conflict with the law at LPKA Bandung is said to be low, because self-stigma of prisoners is a negative thing. Self-stigma is a process where stigma affects a person as a whole (Corrigan, Watson & Barr, 2006). According to LeBel (2012) self-stigma is influenced by the level of education and family relationships, then influenced by age, psychological stress levels and gender (Hing & Russell, 2017). According to Young & Ng (2016) and Zeiger et al (2016) the level of stigma is also influenced by psychological and religious well-being.

Respondents with weak social ties with family and friends experienced higher personal stigma (LeBel, 2012). According to Griffiths (2007) family support is an important aspect that is in fact not given to criminals (Iddah, 2017). This is in accordance with the data obtained, that more than half (60.2%) andikpas are only visited 1-2 times a month by their families. Another factor that affects the psychological life of prisoners, namely socio-economic. Kaplan, Shema & Leite (2008) in their research suggest that the higher the average level of a person's income is associated with an increase in the meaning of life, self-acceptance, self-development, and environmental mastery. Eisenberg, Downs, Golberstein & Zivin (2009) found that a person's personal stigma was higher if he came from a family with a lower economy.

Although family visits and economic factors state that the possibility of self-stigma of children in conflict with the law is high, the results show the opposite. Young & Ng (2016) in their research in Hong Kong stated that women have more self-stigma than men. Children in conflict with the law at LPKA Bandung are all male and it can be seen in Table 1 that their level of self-stigma is low. This is reinforced by the results of research by Hing, Holdsworth, Tiyce, & Breen (2014) on stigma in individuals with gambling problems, which states that women tend to feel self-stigma because of the view that women are caregivers and if they commit crimes they considered irresponsible and incompetent. The public perceives criminal activity as an activity carried out by a certain gender.

Prior (2012) states that there is a developmental task of maturation during adolescence, making a teenager avoid the stigmatization that may arise, and placing themselves in the normal condition possible in the eyes of their peers. This makes it possible for a criminal child aged 12-18 years to have a low self-stigma as a criminal. Latalova, Kamaradova & Prasko (2014) mention that there are significant differences in certain ethnicities who have self-stigma. Reinforced by research by Hing, Holdsworth, Tiyce & Breen (2014) that ethnic minorities feel higher self-stigma than ethnic majority. The results of the research at LPKA Bandung, the majority are Sundanese, where the ethnic group is an indigenous tribe that occupies the area of West Java. Therefore, one of the other reasons why the self-stigma of children in conflict with the law in LPKA Bandung is low, because they are descended from the majority ethnic group and very few are from outside Java.

In addition to gender, age and ethnicity, a person's level of education also affects self-stigma, because education shapes one's way of thinking and solving one's problems. LeBel (2012) states that ex-convicts who have formal education have lower results against stigma, this is due to their higher level of alertness than those who do not take formal education. If education is low and religiosity is high, then the stigma of a person is low, the existence of religious guidance that is carried out by LPKA Bandung regularly every day, is one of the reasons why

the self-stigma of children in conflict with the law at LPKA Bandung is low, that high religious beliefs lead someone to think if trials in his life is a step to repent or return to God's way (Zeiger et all, 2016).

Handayani's research (2010) states that the psychological well-being of juvenile inmates is better for those who are serving a sentence of > 1 year. The data that researchers found that children in conflict with the law in LPKA Class II Bandung who received sentences of more than 1 year amounted to 80.7%. So that children in conflict with the law in LPKA Bandung have low self-stigma, because the length of the sentence makes them more self-accepting. Brooks, King, & Heilbrun (2013) state that the level of internalization of stigma in prisoners can be lower than the level of approval of stigma, because criminals believe that the intended attribute (stigma) is more applicable to others than to themselves (Phillips, 2016).).

The highest result of the three domains refers to the statement of intelligence below average. Sulistyani (2010) mentions that juvenile prisoners have obstacles in facing their dreams, they think that the age factor does not allow them to go back to school because they have been delayed for several years while in prison and they choose to work after being released. In fact, in LPKA itself education has been provided, although not all andikpas can experience education, due to constraints on the number of teaching staff. This is one of the factors that causes Andikpas to feel that they have below average intelligence.

CONCLUSION

The results of the study show that children in conflict with the law have low self-stigma. The results of self-stigma are seen in the last process of formation, namely the internalized stigma domain with lower results than the two previous process domains (perceived stigma and stereotype agreement). The statement that has the highest value in the three domains is "below average intelligence", so it is hoped that LPKA officers, especially the coaching section can maintain existing religious activities, because this helps criminals increase their self-acceptance and becomes one of the triggers for children in conflict with the law to have low self-stigma. In addition, it is hoped that the education department will improve further, such as learning for children who cannot read and write, because children in conflict with the law feel that they have intelligence below the average of others.

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