Urbane Reality: Social Footprints of Teenagers and the Search for Solutions to Deviant Behavior at VHS 5 Padang

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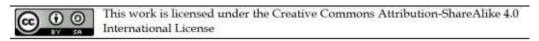
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ABSTRACT

This study aims to explore the factors that cause adolescent deviant behavior, forms of deviation that may occur, and efforts that can be made to overcome these problems. The title tries to present an interesting nuance by using words such as "Urban Reality" to highlight urban life and "Social Footprint of Adolescents" to show a focus on the social aspects of adolescent behavior. "Finding Solutions for Deviant Behavior" emphasizes that this study does not only highlight the problem but also seeks to find solutions to overcome adolescent deviant behavior. Data analysis was carried out qualitatively, using qualitative descriptive presentation techniques to describe in detail the findings found. The results of this study reveal that deviant behavior among adolescents in urban areas is increasingly a major concern. The existence of the phenomenon of drug abuse, gang brawls, drunken behavior and the tendency to smoke are increasingly disturbing forms of deviation. The study identified the motives that cause deviant behavior, including the influence of failed socialization processes, weak social control that creates a vacuum of control, and the practice of labeling or nicknames by society to certain individuals, which then triggers self-identification as deviant. The implications of these findings highlight the importance of the role of strong social control and community efforts in avoiding stigmatization that can exacerbate adolescent behavioral problems in urban areas: Vocational High School (VHS) 5 Padang.

Keywords: Behavior, Deviant, Teenagers, VHS 5 Padang.

INTRODUCTION

Adolescence is the most significant developmental phase that plays a crucial role in human life. During this period, individuals experience a transition from childhood to adulthood, which is marked by major changes in physical, emotional, social, and cognitive aspects (Yang, 2024). These changes have a long-term impact on a person's life and are very important in shaping the identity, values, and outlook on life that will guide them towards adulthood (Côté, 2000).

Adolescents have a very important role in society, not only as agents of change and development but also as builders of character and sustainable values (Maton, 2008). When adolescents successfully navigate the process of finding their identity and adapting to social change, they have the potential to become the main drivers of social, economic, and cultural progress. Therefore, providing adequate attention and support to adolescents is key to ensuring that they not only continue positive traditions but also become initiators of positive change that drives the progress of the nation and state in the future. The importance of the role of adolescents in society places them at the forefront of continuing

social development and evolution towards a better future. They are not only required to maintain and preserve existing values but also to become pioneers of positive change that brings high hopes to future generations. Teenagers are expected not only to be heirs, but also proactive, creative, and innovative drivers of change in every aspect of life. With this attitude, they have the potential to become a dynamic force capable of driving improvement and progress of the nation.

The role of adolescents in society is not only limited to following in the footsteps of their predecessors but also creating new paths that have positive impacts. Therefore, education that leads to the formation of positive, creative, and innovative adolescents is a must to ensure sustainable change and national development that is adaptive to the dynamics of the times (Rieckmann, 2018). However, the reality shows that this phenomenon is increasingly complex, especially in big cities, where many adolescents engage in behavior that is contrary to community norms and values. Deviant adolescent behavior, especially in urban environments, includes various negative actions such as drug abuse, gang brawls, drunken behavior, and smoking (O'Donnell et al., 2012).

Clinard & Meier (1963) in their book explain that this deviant behavior indicates a discrepancy with social norms recognized by society, thus harming the image and social welfare. Factors such as environmental influences, peer pressure, lack of social control, and lack of understanding of the impact of this behavior may be the main causes of deviant behavior among adolescents. Therefore, understanding the root of this problem and implementing holistic and community-based strategies are needed to effectively address this challenge.

This article attempts to answer several important questions related to deviant behavior among adolescents, especially at VHS 5 Padang. Some of the questions raised include: 1) Why does deviant behavior occur among adolescents at VHS 5 Padang?; 2) What forms of behavior are considered deviant among adolescents at VHS 5 Padang?; and 3) What efforts can be made to overcome deviant behavior among adolescents? The purpose of this study is to find the factors that cause deviant behavior, explain and categorize the forms of deviant behavior, and analyze various efforts to reduce and overcome deviant behavior among adolescents.

The theories that form the main basis of this article are the social control theory and labeling theory (Triplett & Upton (2015). Social control theory emphasizes the importance of regulating human behavior toward obedience to the values, norms, and rules of society. The main concept in this theory is the existence of social control as an effort to control human behavior, and deviation can occur when there is a gap in the social control system. This theory views that humans tend to disobey the rules so that violations occur. On the other hand, labeling theory states that individuals who have been labeled deviant by society tend to identify themselves as deviants, which can then trigger repeated deviant behavior. By combining these two theories, this article aims to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the dynamics of deviant behavior among adolescents, especially at VHS 5 Padang. A review of relevant literature shows that adolescents are vulnerable to social interactions. Socialization during adolescence often faces challenges because social interactions may not always be in line with applicable norms and rules. Failure of adolescents to instill positive values in themselves can lead to social deviation. This social deviation reflects the misalignment between the demands of socialization and the ability of adolescents to comply with existing norms, which can take various forms such as breaking

the law or engaging in behaviors that are detrimental to themselves and the environment (Santos et al. 2023; Soto et al., 2024).

Understanding the complexity of social deviation in adolescence requires an in-depth analysis of the factors that influence it. This literature review encourages a better understanding of the dynamics of adolescent socialization and its impact on behavior formation, as well as providing a basis for developing more effective strategies and interventions. Social deviation can be characterized by various variants such as sexual deviation, moral deficiency, personality disorders, psychoneurosis, and dangerous acts. In addition, social deviation can be classified based on the number of individuals involved. Deviation can be carried out individually, collectively, or by groups that have a permanent organization. By recognizing the complexity and diversity of social deviation, we can better understand this phenomenon and design a more contextual approach to managing and responding to deviant behavior in society.

METHODS

In conducting this research, qualitative methods are the main foundation, meaning that the methods used involve observation and descriptive analysis. The main focus of this method is to highlight the actual findings or facts that emerge during the research process, which are obtained through careful observation. The analytical aspect of this method includes careful observation and research, then analysis according to the needs of the research (Kumari et al., 2023). Reliable data sources come from library research, where relevant information and data are obtained from various literature sources. After the data has been successfully collected, the next step is to conduct a qualitative data analysis. The presentation technique applied in this analysis process is qualitative descriptive, which allows researchers to describe and explain in detail the findings found during the research. This approach provides a deep understanding of the phenomena being studied, with the characteristics of a deep and contextual qualitative method.

RESULT

3.1 Definition and Impact of Deviant Behavior

Deviant behavior is an action or behavior that violates applicable norms and laws and hurts social order. This behavior often contains elements of violation of moral values recognized by society (Colaguori, 2023). In a social context, deviant behavior creates disharmony and dissonance between individuals who commit deviations and the values adopted by society. In the VHS 5 Padang environment, various forms of deviant behavior among adolescents can be observed, including brawls between students, smoking, and alcohol consumption. These phenomena reflect social problems that need serious attention from various parties to overcome and prevent wider negative impacts.

- **Brawls Between Students:** Brawls between students often become common news, reflecting the widespread conflict between adolescents in society. The gangs that are formed exacerbate this situation, as recorded in a study by Puput Wilujeng regarding the aggressive behavior of students at VHS 5 Padang Padang. The study showed that adolescents tend to show aggressive behavior, both verbally and nonverbally, when they feel treated unfairly. This often leads to the decision to resolve the conflict through physical violence. Brawls not only disturb society but also create social instability. Many teenagers feel "great" if they can scare others through their gangs or groups. Small incidents such as fights on the street or intense stares can trigger brawls. There is a tradition of hostility between schools that is passed down from generation to generation, causing resentment that can trigger fights at any time. Therefore, there needs to be a collaborative effort to prevent and overcome brawls, either through an educational approach, adolescent emotional development, or other preventive efforts.
- **Smoking:** Smoking among teenagers is a form of deviant behavior that has serious health impacts. Although some teenagers find smoking enjoyable, its impact on health is very detrimental. Cigarettes contain harmful substances that can damage health, both in the short and long term. Several studies have shown that smoking behavior among teenagers is often associated with psychological factors, such as the need for satisfaction or the desire to feel more confident. Many teenagers who smoke, especially boys, have low knowledge about the dangers of smoking. This shows the need for more intensive education and socialization regarding the risks of smoking. By increasing their knowledge, it is hoped that teenagers can make wiser choices and encourage positive changes in their lifestyle.
- **Alcohol Consumption:** Alcohol consumption is also a deviant behavior that is often associated with drunken behavior. Alcohol has a depressant effect on the nervous system, which can reduce awareness and self-control. Drinking alcohol excessively can result in behavior that is detrimental to society, such as violence and crime. Unconducive family environment factors and peer influence are often triggers for alcohol consumption behavior among teenagers. They may seek an outlet through drinking alcohol to overcome problems, even though the impact is much more negative. Therefore, preventive and intervention efforts are needed to create a supportive environment, provide appropriate education, and strengthen positive values.

3.2 Factors Causing Deviant Behavior

Deviant behavior can be caused by various factors, both internal and external. Internal factors include aspects of an individual's personality such as mental state, life experiences, and psychological conditions. Emotional conflict, feelings of alienation, or dissatisfaction with oneself can trigger deviant behavior. External factors include environmental influences, such as social norms, group pressure, and social inequality. Strict social norms or peer pressure can encourage individuals to deviate as a form of reaction to social

dissatisfaction. Economic inequality can also create conditions that trigger deviant behavior in response to injustice (Pascaru-Goncear, 2023). Here are some factors that cause deviant behavior that need to be considered:

– **Family:** The family is the smallest social unit that plays a major role in shaping a child's character. A family that is not harmonious or disorganized can hurt a child's behavior. Disharmony in the family, such as divorce or the death of a parent, often triggers negative behavior in children. Parents play an important role as guides and role models. Efforts to maintain family harmony and support good communication are very important to create an environment that supports positive child growth.

– **School Environment:** The school environment also influences adolescent behavior. A dense curriculum and a lack of space for self-actualization can make students feel alienated. As a result, they may seek compensation through risky extracurricular activities. Therefore, it is important to design a learning approach that supports the holistic development of children's personalities.

– **Social Disparities:** Socioeconomic disparities create injustice that can encourage individuals to take shortcuts in meeting their needs. Dissatisfaction and frustration due to economic inequality often trigger criminal behavior, such as theft and robbery. Therefore, a more inclusive economic policy is needed to reduce social disparities.

– **Media Influence:** The mass media has a major influence on adolescent behavior. Shows that show violence, pornography, and promiscuity can influence adolescents' worldviews. They tend to imitate the behavior they see without considering the moral impact. Therefore, wise supervision of media content accessed by adolescents is needed.

– **Adolescents and the Search for Identity**: Adolescence is an important period in the search for identity. Adolescents need positive role models to help them face life's challenges. Adults who provide examples of good behavior and support can be an inspiration for teenagers. With the right role models, teenagers can build resilience and develop positive personalities.

– **Efforts to Overcome Deviant Behavior**: To overcome deviant behavior, efforts are needed from various parties. Parents must continue to control and provide direction to teenagers. Building resilience in teenagers is the key so that they are not easily influenced by a negative environment. In addition, maintaining family harmony and providing emotional support are also important for building positive relationships with children. The application of firm control by society against deviant subcultures can help maintain social balance. The sanctions given not only function as punishment, but also as a form of social education to improve individual behavior. With firm control, it is hoped that it can encourage society to comply more with recognized norms and values so that better social stability is created.

CONCLUSIONS

Deviant behavior among adolescents is a complex and multifactorial phenomenon, encompassing various forms of actions that not only violate social and legal norms but also have the potential to damage social order. Deviant behavior such as brawls, smoking, and alcohol consumption not only disrupt public order but also hurt individual development. Various internal and external factors influence the emergence of this behavior, such as less harmonious family conditions, peer pressure, dissatisfaction with the school environment, and socioeconomic disparities that trigger jealousy and frustration. The family as the smallest social unit plays a vital role in the formation of children's character and morals. Harmony in the family, openness, and sufficient attention to children's non-material needs are key to preventing deviant behavior. The school environment also plays an important role in supporting the development of children's personalities. An education system that provides space for self-development and creativity can prevent feelings of alienation and help children in the process of finding a positive identity. Social disparities and the negative influence of the mass media are also significant factors contributing to deviant behavior among adolescents. Media that displays violent content and unethical behavior can have a negative influence on the mental and morals of adolescents who are still in the process of development. This influence can cause adolescents to imitate the negative behavior they see, which in turn worsens the social situation. To overcome this deviant behavior, a comprehensive and collaborative approach is needed from various parties, including families, schools, communities, and governments. Interventions that involve education, emotional guidance, and strict and wise supervision can help create an environment that supports positive adolescent development. In this way, we can create a more harmonious society and adolescents who are healthier emotionally and socially.

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