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Relationship between Bystander Efficacy and Decisional Balance in Case of Domestic Violence among Jabodetabek Teenagers

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Abstract

Previous studies have shown the rate of domestic violence towards women in Indonesia was threatening. Researches have found that one of the most effective way to prevent the violence was the bystander. By understanding the characteristic of bystander in the sample of teenager in Indonesia, this study seeks to predict the tendency to help from their efficacy and decisional balance. The result shows that there are significant correlations between bystander efficacy and tendency to intervene, yet no empirical support for decisional balance.

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Keywords: Domestic violence; bystander intervention; bystander efficacy; bystander decisional balance

1. Introduction

Gender-based violence has always been a pattern of violence supported by education, employment and economic discrimination (Rose, 2013), being the most prominent form is the domestic violence. Every year, there has been an increase in the number of domestic violence cases, creating many new victims of domestic violence in terms of

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physical, psychological, sexual and even economical damage (Hartono, 2014) making it one of the greatest problem faced in Indonesia. The violence may be experienced by a relative, a friend, a co-worker or even a student (Ramakrishnan, 2014). The number has been rising especially in heavily populated urban areas such as Greater Jakarta or Jabodetabek, among teenager in a family and romantic relationships. However, the number of cases uncovered are just another proof that violence has prevailed once again and intervention program targeting abuser and victim do only a little help. This problem has made researchers realize that the most effective approach in preventing domestic violence, is not through understanding and intervening the victim nor the abuser, but through focusing people around them who are likely to just stand by and doing nothing to prevent the occurrence of domestic violence. Focusing on this bystander phenomenon, or known as 'bystander effect' (Latane and Darley, 1968) in an effort to prevent domestic violence has been proven to be effective in many countries with their bystander intervention program, for example Domestic Violence Act (DVA) in Malaysia (Zain, 2012) and The Bringing in The Bystander Program (Banyard, Eckstein and Moynihan, 2009) and yet in Indonesia there has been a little focus on the subject. By understanding how bystanders think and behave in the occurrence of domestic violence, it is possible to engage them to intervene and prevent the incident they will encounter in the future.

1.1. Variables

There are many predictors for bystander effect based on previous studies including the number of people present during the incident (Latane and Darley, 1968), knowledge and attitude about violence, childhood experience, gender and situational factors (Banyard, 2008), conformity to masculinity norm (Koon, 2013), efficacy to intervene and decisional balance of the bystander (Banyard, 2008; Banyard, Eckstein and Moynihan, 2009). In this studies, we are not focusing on predictors with lower modifiability, such as gender factor and the number of people present during the incident which could be understood better with experimental design. Rather, in this study we seek to replicate the result of previous bystander intervention studies which have proven that efficacy and decisional balance of bystander are two of the best predictor of bystander intervention behavior.

1.2. Research objective

Mentioned above were only some of many predictors for bystander effect, yet beside only a little number of research on the topic, the cultural and demographic difference in Indonesia may contribute to the effectiveness of these predictors. Thus, it is unwise to generalize and quickly apply them in Indonesian samples. This study then serves to investigate whether the predictors apply in Indonesian sample of teenagers in Greater Jakarta. The result hopefully, can be beneficial for potential bystander intervention training program in Indonesia.

2. Literature review

2.1. Domestic violence

Domestic violence is an issue of topical interest in the context of contemporary society (Golu, 2014). The term domestic violence, which covers all type of domestic relationship is the most commonly employed to describe incidents of familial or intimate abuse (Zain, 2012). The form of abuse can be sexual, physical, verbal, psychological, economical and even can go as far as threaten one's freedom. As one of the most recognized gender-based violence, we can assume that the main victims are women. The problem regarding domestic violence is that despite the modernization of an era which accompanies the growth of more potent law, protection, culture and mindset of people around the world, it still prevails and tragically, increase. Most research paper regarding domestic violence, started from the same notion of thinking, which described best by Safta, Stan, Iurea dan Suditu (2010) on the findings (from the book *'Be European: Promote and support Gender Equality! – Civic Education Handbook for the Support and Promotion of Gender Equality for Men and Women*, 2004) that started their study that: 1) Domestic violence is a problem that affect us all, regardless of geographical borders, age, class, race, ethnicity and cultural distinction, 2) It is the most frequent form of violence and often silenced due to the fear towards the aggressor and embarrassment and finally, 3) Domestic violence is not a private or family issue, but rather one of social interest

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