

Original Research

Authoritarian Parenting and Bullying Behaviour among Adolescents in Bali



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Article Info	Abstract
Article history: Received: 3 September 2022 Accepted: 28 April 2023	<i>Introduction:</i> Bullying in adolescents harms all parties involved, the victims, perpetrators, bystanders present during the bullying event, and even the institution or schools. One important factor related to bullying among adolescents is parenting style. <i>Methods:</i> This study was a survey study involving the population of adolescents in Bali. A total of 783 eligible students recruited by consecutive sampling technique were participated in the study. Data was collected using a Google form questionnaire that was distributed through a Whatsapp group. Data were analyzed using the simple logistic regression analysis to discover the relationship between authoritarian parenting style and bullying behavior among adolescents. <i>Results:</i> Findings revealed that adolescents with authoritarian parenting styles posed a risk of being bullies by 3.87 higher than adolescents who received permissive and democratic parenting styles (95% CI:1.75 – 8.57) with a significance value of 0.001. <i>Conclusion:</i> This study showed that adolescents with authoritarian parenting have a 3.87 times higher risk of becoming bullies than adolescents who received permissive and democratic parenting.
Keywords: authoritarian parenting, bullying, adolescents	

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INTRODUCTION

Adolescence is a transitional phase from childhood to adulthood marked by physical, psychological, and psychosocial changes [1].

Along with their growth and development, adolescents experience various problems ranging from health to juvenile delinquency problems. One form of juvenile delinquency is bullying. Bullying is a term adopted to

describe the existence of intimidation, oppression, or harm, which is intentionally carried out by a person or group of people against individuals to hurt and is carried out continuously [2][3]. There are several types of bullying: physical, verbal, relational, and cyberbullying [4][2]. Adolescent bullying cases have been occurring in countries worldwide. Australia reported that one in four children in the country was experiencing perpetration, and one in five children had experienced cyberbullying perpetration through cyberspaces [5]. Malawi also reported that 44.1% of male and 44.9% of female adolescents in their country were victims of bullying [6]. Findings from the 2018 Program for International Students Assessment (PISA) revealed that 41.1% of students experienced bullying perpetration in Indonesia [7]. The Global School-based Health Survey (GSHS) also showed that 24.1% of male and 17.4% of female adolescents had bullying perpetration experience [8].

Bullying in adolescents harms all parties involved, the victims, perpetrators, bystanders present during the bullying event, and even the institution or school where bullying occurs. Bullying victims could experience depression, develop an inferiority complex, show low attendance at school, have poor academic performance, have lower intelligence, and even develop suicidal thoughts in severe circumstances. It is not rare that the victims can manage to act aggressively to seek revenge and forgiveness from the bullies. Several cases of bullying victims fighting back against their bullies were broadly documented. A victim of bullying in Bali stabbed their bullies due to

anger and desire to take revenge [9]. On the perpetrators' side, bullying could bring higher self-confidence and self-esteem, which tends to increase pro-violent aggressive behavior. The impact of bullying on the bystanders is also very destructive. They may assume bullying as a natural and socially acceptable act [10].

Several studies have demonstrated factors related to the incidence of bullying: demographic, socioeconomic, lifestyle, parenting styles, gender, peer circles, social media influence, alcohol consumption, smoking habit, and loneliness [11-14]. Parenting styles are essential during the adolescence period. Three primary parenting styles: authoritarian, authoritative or democratic, and permissive, have been widely mentioned in various literatures.

METHODS

This was an observational study with an analytic descriptive approach and a survey method. The study population was all adolescents in Bali. Eventually, a total of 783 eligible adolescents who were selected by a consecutive sampling technique participated in this study. Data was collected using a Google form questionnaire that was distributed through a Whatsapp group. This questionnaire explored participant's demographic characteristics and their parenting styles. Twenty-four question items in the questionnaire investigated the type of parenting style experienced by adolescents. The questionnaire has been tested for its validity by SPSS 25 on 36 participants with the value of r count greater than the r table

(0.329). Questionnaire reliability was indicated by the Cronbach Alpha value of 0.763 [15]. The data collected were subsequently studied using univariate and bivariate analysis with a simple logistic regression statistical test with a 95% level of significance. The study ethical approval has been granted by the Research Ethics Commission of the Faculty of Medicine Udayana University with a letter No. 2433/UN14.2.2.VII.14/LT/22.

RESULTS

Nineteen percent of the participants confessed that they were school bullies or perpetrators. Most perpetrators were male (58.4%), with the average age of 16 years. Most of them originally lived in Buleleng

Regency. Surprisingly, most bullies had parents with high school educational backgrounds (42.9%). Most bullies' parents were working as farmers (22.8.8%). The demographic characteristics of adolescent perpetrators are shown in Table 1.

Bivariate analysis revealed that adolescents raised with authoritarian parenting styles had a 3.87 higher risk of being bullies compared to adolescents grew with permissive and democratic parenting (95%CI:1.75 – 8.57). No significant difference between permissive and democratic parenting styles was discovered. Therefore, we combined the permissive and democratic parenting styles into one category and then compared them with authoritarian parenting styles in this study.

Table 1

Demographic Characteristics of Adolescent Perpetrators in Bali Province

Characteristics	Status	
	Perpetrator/Bully	Non-Perpetrator
Age		
Observed	149 (19%)	634 (81%)
Mean (Years)	16.57±1.48	16.50±1.35
Min - Max (Years)	11- 21	12- 21
Gender		
Male	87 (58.4%)	203 (32%)
Female	62 (41.6%)	431 (68%)
Native District of Origin		
Buleleng	75 (50%)	254 (40%)
Negara	22 (14.7%)	80 (12.6%)
Tabanan	2 (1 %)	15 (2.4%)
Badung	19 (12.7%)	111 (17.5%)
Gianyar	7 (4.7%)	33 (5.2%)
Bangli	4 (2.7%)	24 (3.8%)
Klungkung	5 (3.4%)	16 (2.5%)
Karangasem	1 (0.7%)	15 (2.4%)
Denpasar	14 (9.4%)	86 (13.6%)
Parent's Educational Background		
Did Not Go to School	3 (2%)	11 (1.74%)
Primary School	42 (28.2%)	124 (19.6%)
Junior High School	17 (11.4%)	94 (14.8%)
Senior High School	64 (42.9%)	287 (45.3%)
College	23 (15.4%)	118 (18.6%)
Parent's Occupation		
Farmer	34 (22.8%)	126 (19.9%)
Construction Workers	30 (20%)	97 (15.3%)
Farm Workers	25 (16.8%)	64 (10%)
Private Employees	16 (10.7%)	117 (18.45%)
Self-Employed	29 (19.5%)	154 (24.5%)
Civil Servant/Indonesian National Armed Force/Indonesian National Police	15 (10.1%)	76 (12%)

Table 2

Relationship between Authoritarian Parenting Style with Bullying Perpetration among Adolescents in Bali

Parenting Style	Bullying Behavior		PR (95%CI)	p value
	Yes	No		
Authoritarian	12 (46%)	14 (54%)	3.87 (1.75 - 8.57)	0.001
Permissive and Democratic	137 (18%)	620 (82%)		

Source: Primary data analysis

DISCUSSION

Bullying is a repeated act from an individual or group intended to harm others. Bullying occurs by performing negative actions that are intentionally planned or attempted to cause harm or discomfort to the targeted victim [16]. Several adolescent bullying cases happened in Bali. One case was a physical bullying, involving three adolescents who kicked, slapped, and nearly stripped the victim naked. A bullying victim in another case was forced to prostrate at the feet of one of the perpetrators and then violently abused by three perpetrators [17] [18]. Additionally, numerous bullying cases were also reported in a junior high school in Tabanan-Bali, Junior High School of 1 Selemadeg. These perpetration cases involved all type of bullying: physical, verbal, social, and cyberbullying victimization, with verbal bullying as the most common perpetration [19].

Bullying in adolescents harms all parties involved, the victims, perpetrators, bystanders present during the bullying event, and even the institution or school where bullying occurs. Bullying victims could experience depression, develop an inferiority complex, show low attendance at school, have

poor academic performance, have lower intelligence, and develop suicidal thoughts in severe circumstances. It is not rare that the victims can manage to act aggressively to seek revenge and forgiveness from the bullies [11][20]. Several cases of bullying victims fighting back against their bullies were broadly documented. A victim of bullying in Bali stabbed their bullies due to anger and desire to take revenge [9]. On the perpetrators' side, bullying could bring higher self-confidence and self-esteem, which tends to increase pro-violent aggressive behavior. The impact of bullying on bystanders is also very destructive. They may assume bullying is a natural and socially acceptable act [10].

Several studies have demonstrated factors related to the incidence of bullying: demographic, socioeconomic, lifestyle, parenting styles, gender, peers circles, social media influence, alcohol consumption, smoking habit, and loneliness [11-14].

Parenting styles are essential during the adolescence period. Parents or family is the first place for children to grow and develop, providing them space for the process of transition into adolescents and constructing their character as mature adults. Parenting patterns undoubtedly can shape behavior among adolescents [21][22]. Baumrind had

identified three primary parenting styles: authoritarian, authoritative or democratic, and permissive [23]. Democratic parents give proper space to their children to decide their own goals in life, escorting them with a warm parental attitude and approach in the process. Authoritarian parents tend to practice one-way communication, never compromise, use corporal force, employ strong command, and use harsh punishment to enforce obedience. On the other hand, a permissive parenting style is characterized by a lack of boundaries and poor parental guidance [24].

Findings indicated that an adolescent raised with authoritarian parenting style had a 3.87 times higher risk of becoming a bully than adolescent who grew with permissive and democratic parenting style. A poor connection with their parent also can trigger bullying tendencies. Adolescents will seek attention outside their homes by using their power over someone who is usually weaker. They can also imitate the violence they saw at home or living environment. All this situation combined could be the reason why adolescents bully others. Perpetrators torment weaker individuals as an escape from their oppressive living environment that makes them constantly feel powerless [25]. The authoritarian parenting style has a very significant positive relationship with bullying behavior among children at school. Stronger authoritarian parenting style could result in nastier bullying perpetration [26]. Thus, this study illustrated that oppression occurring inside the family due to the adoption of authoritarian parenting styles could trigger adolescent bullying perpetration.

Adolescents can adapt better to the social environment with trust and a sense of security from their parents. A healthy relationship between parents and their children could be generated through adequate emotional bonds. Parental support has been broadly confirmed as an aspect that prevents adolescent involvement in school bullying perpetration. Hence, parenting style are one strong predictor related to adolescent bullying [27].

STUDY LIMITATION

Study data were collected using an online-based questionnaire, providing us with no access to information that may require direct observation.

CONCLUSION

This study showed that adolescents raised with authoritarian parenting styles posed a 3.87 times higher risk of becoming bullies than adolescents who received permissive and democratic parenting styles. Authoritarian parenting style is considered one of the bullying-related factors among adolescents, where the parents strongly force, command, and give harsh punishment to enforce obedience.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Authors have no conflict of interest to declare.

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