

## CHILD PSYCHOLOGICAL DYNAMICS AS PERPETRATORS OF THEFT

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***Abstract.** Child delinquency is an act that violates the norms or rules in society that is committed by children. Child delinquency is a social phenomenon caused by a form of social neglect which ultimately leads to deviant behavior or delinquency. But there are several factors that influence children to do these actions. This study aims to determine the psychological dynamics of children as perpetrators of theft, so they can handle or even prevent other children. This research uses a qualitative method, because this method can be used to explore and understand the meaning of a number of individuals or groups who are considered to have social or humanitarian problems. The results of this study indicate that children commit acts of theft because of a lack of attention from the family or even from their own parents to become a bad figure for their children. Likewise, the influence of peers who are naughty in association can also influence the behavior of children to become naughty. And a bad environment can influence children's behavior to be bad, because children tend to imitate what they see in their environment whether it's good or bad.*

***Keywords:** Psychological Dynamics, Perpetrator, Theft*

## BACKGROUND

Children are a trust for their parents, therefore they provide protection to their pure hearts. If the child is used to doing good, of course he will develop into good. But on the contrary, if a child gets used to bad things or is neglected, of course he will become an immoral person(Sunday Juliadarma 2019: h.39). Currently there are many challenges that must be faced in the world of children's learning, not only for parents, but for learning institutions and countries in preparing an ideal learning system for children.(Word of Mansir 2022: h.389). There are many triggers that can cause delinquency in children, including damage to morality, poor learning in society and peers, and poor family ties between parents and children.(Shinta Febriana Rahayu and Narulita Widhi Astuti 2022: h.77).

The number of child delinquents continues to increase every year both at school and in their environment. The large number of victims illustrates that this child's delinquency is increasingly difficult to stop(Lutfia Uli Na'mah et al. 2018: h.263). This is the responsibility of the relevant parties to minimize the prevalence of child delinquency, because the consequences experienced are quite large for residents(Khaoirunita Ulfiyatun Rochmah and Fathul Lubabin Nuqul 2015: h.89). In general, the attitude of child delinquency is interpreted as a form of attitude that does not match the norms that exist in society, then people consider this act as a disorder so that naughty behavior is like being pronounced with delinquency. If we talk about children as perpetrators of delinquency, then delinquency is a form of social problems that exist in society and is a reality that must be experienced by every layer of society and one example of delinquency is the crime of theft.(Sarwini 2011: p.244).

Theft is a crime that is intended for property and goods and often occurs in society. This crime is an action that can shake the security stability of both the assets and the lives of citizens. Therefore, the Criminal Code (KUHP) emphasizes detailed and severe punishment for violators. This can be seen from the form of punishment and the threat of punishment imposed(Arief Rahman Kurniadi 2022: h.77). Theft is also a criminal act, if it is committed by an adult, he will undergo a legal process, but in general, if he is caught, he must go through the legal process that has been in effect. But it is different if the crime of theft is committed by children, and of course the legal process that is enforced is also different(Usep Tatang Suryadi and Yana Supriatna 2019: h.15). This matter becomes

interesting for research and find solutions to problems that befall children as perpetrators of crimes, especially criminal acts of theft. Given the very meaning of children for a country. Children are also the buds, abilities, and the younger generation to continue the ideals of the nation's struggle, have a strategic position and have special characteristics and guarantee the continued existence of the nation and the country in the future.(Sugiarto 2021:h.197).

Society in general certainly wants children who are healthy, smart, cheerful, and guaranteed their survival and development(Rabiatul Adawiah 2017: h.41). But the reality is that there are lots of children with various alibis who have had trouble with the law. Efforts to deal with child delinquency should indeed start from a fairly good knowledge of the background and the causes of this delinquency. Then for that, it is necessary to formulate and use the right procedures and strategies in efforts to prosecute and overcome child delinquency. This is what made the authors carry out this research to identify the psychological dynamics of children as perpetrators of theft.

## **THEORETICAL STUDY**

### **1. Psychological Dynamics**

According to Chaplin, psychological dynamics is a psychological system that emphasizes research on causal relationships in motives and drives for the emergence of a behavior(Katharina Anggun Dwi Novitasari and Gratianus Edwi Nugrohadi 2021: h.13). According to Wideasari, psychological dynamics are aspects of motivation and encouragement that come from within and outside the individual, which affect mentality and help individuals adjust to circumstances and changes.(Rilla Sovitriana 2019: h.18). According to Walgito, there are three components in humans that influence and shape behavior in everyday life so as to form psychological dynamics, namely: the cognitive component, the affective component and the conative component.(Sandy Agum Gumelar, Risa Almaida, and Adinda Azmi Laksmiwati 2021:h.18). When the three cognitive, affective, and conative aspects go hand in hand in harmony and harmony, then human psychic life will go well. However, it turns out that there are many other conflicts that accompany it, including conflicts with thoughts, feelings, and wills that are sometimes contradictory.

## 2. Definition of Children

According to RA Kosnan "Children are young people at a young age in the spirit and journey of life because they are easily influenced by their environment". Therefore, children need to be taken seriously (Asfri Sri Rahmadeni et al. 2019: h.141). However, as social beings who are the most vulnerable and weak, ironically children are often placed in the most disadvantaged position, do not have the right to speak, and often become victims of acts of violence and violations of their rights.

The age limit of a child is very important in juvenile criminal cases, because it is used to find out whether a person suspected of committing a crime is included in the category of a child or not. There are also variations in the age limits of children in various countries which regulate the age of children who can be convicted. Several countries also provide a definition of someone as a child or adult in terms of age and activity or thinking ability.

## 3. The tendency of children to commit acts of theft

According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary, "Tendency" means willingness, desire (preference). So if a child who is underage has a desire or likes to commit a crime of theft, then what needs to be known and analyzed are the causative factors. To find out the causes of minors committing criminal acts of theft, it is necessary to pay attention to several interrelated tendencies or factors, namely internal factors, environmental factors and socio-economic factors.

Family or parents are the most important factor in influencing a child's life. Since I was a fetus, the mother's emotional attitude has a big influence on the development of the womb. According to Drs. Abdulsyair, internal factors that cause a crime to arise are:

- a. The special nature of the individual.
- b. The general nature of the individual.

The social environment of children also influences the development of the soul and personality, because it has become a human instinct to gather, play and hang out with their friends. With the association creates a good influence - bad for children. The habit

of bad children is to be good at persuading their friends, so they will participate in doing what is planned. According to B. Simajuntak and Soedjono D, the process of someone acting or acting based on that behavior is learned negatively. It is said that criminal behavior is inherited so that on that basis no one becomes mechanically evil. Criminal behavior is learned in relationships or communication. The communication relationship can be done verbally or with body movements that contain a certain attitude (Bambang Sarutomo 2021: h.48).

From this concept, it can be assumed that for children, a bad or bad social environment (peer group) tends to encourage the formation of bad (negative) behavior as well, which can even lead to unlawful behavior, both at a mild level (shoplifting or stealing). to severe (torturing or killing) (Yandri Setia Bakti 2018: h.4).

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

This study uses a qualitative method with a phenomenological strategy. Data collection techniques used observation and interview methods with one informant, namely the child of the theft perpetrator. This research took place in a school in the Tabalong district.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The results of the interviews show that the child committing theft is not necessarily his will. But in this case we have to know the background of this happening, one way is to interview the perpetrator, he admits that his relationship with his family is not going very well. The perpetrator admitted that he felt a lack of attention from his parents which caused this child to become a bad person, one of the effects of committing an act of theft as a form of outlet for disappointment. In the family, the father is a support for the family as well as being a caregiver from an early age so that he avoids bad deeds from an early age (Dinda Septiani and Itto Nesyia Nasution 2017: h.122).

However, what would happen if the figure of this child's father was later found to have been in prison for committing the same thing, namely theft. So since childhood this child has lost a good father figure in his life who could be a good example for him. The

mother of this child works as a housewife and tends to let her child do whatever she wants so that the child is more willing to engage in deviant behavior such as stealing. Among the effects of a lack of attention to children can cause children to tend to be timid and easily influenced by things out there such as bad associations and a bad environment. Even though the role of parents towards their children is to pay attention to their children so that children feel valuable and valued by their circumstances.

Peers are also very influential on children's behavior to become deviant. Peers are a source of social support for children or adolescents, which includes best friends, classmates at school and friends in the group. Support from peers is also individual assistance in the form of enthusiasm, advice, acceptance, and concern based on a sense of caring for others (Munawarah, Latipun, and Sofa Amalia 2019: h.152). But peers can also have a bad impact if children are careless in choosing friends. One example is the child in this study. Based on this child's confession, he was invited by his friends in the afternoon to steal from the school office because his peers knew the secret location of the office key and committed the theft. Therefore, the important role of parents here is to be able to guide their children so that they are not easily carried away by bad company by their friends, and as parents, they must also be taught to be selective in choosing friends. Being selective does not mean that you are picky about friends, but that children can be friends with anyone, but do not let children follow the negative actions of other children (Haura Alfiah Nida 2021: h.339). This can happen because of bad environmental factors and tend not to care.

The social environment is an area or place where someone lives to socialize in the surrounding environment. The environment consists of the family environment, the school environment, playmates and the community environment. The community environment is one of the factors that can influence a person or group to take action or change behavior in association. In general, it is very influential on the development of children's behavior because this social environment is often unconsciously giving a negative influence on children so that it makes them involved in inappropriate associations, both from the living environment and the school environment. (Mensi M. Sapara, Juliana Lumintang, and Cornelius J. Paat 2020:h.3). Because children will tend to imitate what they see in their environment. If the environment is good then the

influence on him is good, otherwise if the environment is not good it will have a bad impact on his behavior.

Every child has a different way of socializing in society, the way of socializing depends on who and where he socializes. Who and where he socializes will greatly influence the child's behavior. And it turns out that the environment that the children in this study live in is a bad environment, they tend not to care about what children do in their relationships. And the people are used to doing these bad things, for example, like illegal racing, drinking, drugs and even theft. So that children in this place will indirectly be influenced and make sense of it, which is wrong. So in this case the community should act as a guide for children whose job is to control children's behavior, teach them good behavior, and become a place of education so that it has a positive impact on the development of children in their environment.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on some of these explanations, we can conclude that there are several things that can cause children to commit mischief and theft, namely the lack of love and attention from both parents or even the loss of a good father figure and the treatment of mothers who tend to let their children do anything. . Then the child's peers must be considered because if the child's peers behave less well then this can influence the child to follow suit too. And a bad environment is also very influential for children, especially since people don't care about what children do so that children can do as they please without anyone reprimanding them.

Suggestions from researchers should be as parents can be the first bastion to protect children from bad things. The role of parents in raising children must be very careful because children tend to imitate other people, whether it's good or bad. Parents must also supervise the association and friendship of children, so that children do not choose the wrong friends to hang out with, it is feared that children will imitate the bad behavior of their friendship. And within the community, residents should set a good example for children so that children can emulate the good behavior of the community.

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