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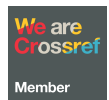
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Article

Parental support: prevention of cyber grooming in junior high school adolescents



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ABSTRACT

Social media has become an important part of human life, especially teenagers. Adolescents are vulnerable to manipulation on social media by adults for financial gain or sexual gratification that ends in sexual abuse. Research on cyber grooming in Indonesia is still limited. This research was conducted with correlational studies. The study population was 768 students of SMP N 6 Semarang. The sampling technique used was simple random sampling by taking 20% of the total population of 154 students. The method of data collection is carried out using psychological scale instruments. Data analysis techniques use correlation. Results showed that there was a positive association between parental support and supervision of adolescents' understanding of the dangers of cyber grooming. Parents' awareness of the risks of online or the risks of social media use in adolescents needs to be increased.

Keywords:

Cyber grooming,
Parental support,
Adolescent

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Introduction

In today's technological era, it is almost certain that everyone has a social media account, such as Facebook, Twitter, Path, Instagram, and so on. This condition is like a normality that changes how to communicate in an all-digital era like now. If in the past, introductions were carried out in a conventional way, which is (usually) accompanied by the exchange of business cards, now every time we meet new people tend to exchange account addresses or make friends on social media (Mulawarman & Nurfitri, 2017). This has also become a trend among teenagers. On the one hand, media reports about internet abuse among teenagers, are currently causing concern among parents (Sengupta & Chaudhuri, 2011).

Among the problems caused by internet use, online grooming, which is a manipulative process that leads to sexual solicitation between adults and minors, is gaining increasing attention (Paola Pasca, 2022). The trend among adolescents is social networking or social media, but adolescents do not realize that this is used by sex offenders to find victims by utilizing various characteristics of virtual media or cyber grooming (Hawa et al., 2020). Cyber grooming becomes worrisome for children and adolescents when using social media (Sengupta & Chaudhuri, 2011; Mazari, 2013; Redondo-Sama et al., 2014; Wurtele & Kenny, 2016; Wachs et al., 2021; Mladenovic et al., 2020; Gámez-Guadix & Incera, 2021). Cyber grooming is the process of adults establishing a relationship of trust over a minor to obtain some type of sexual interaction, online or offline (Whittle et al., 2013). Cyber grooming can result in mental health disorders (Whittle et al., 2013; Wachs et al., 2021; Silver-Hmelo, 2004).

The April 2020 National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) report found that the number of child sexual exploitations using new modes reached 4.2 million. The number has increased by 2 million in a month, March 2020 (Kemenpppa, 2020) reports. Some prevention programs are

designed for adults, whereas this prevention needs to involve children (Redondo-Sama et al., 2014). The World of Education seeks to prevent cyber grooming through a culture of healthy internet use (Hawa et al., 2020). But it has not been significant, marked by the increasing number of victims of cyber grooming.

Cyber grooming constitutes a type of sexual abuse that is characterized by: a) the involvement of minors who are below the legal age of sexual consent as defined by a specific country; b) the use of force or intimidation that may range from insidious to blatant; and c) it arises out of a situation where adults, often in a position of trust, dominance, or authority, exploit minors (Gámez-Guadix et al., 2021). Cyber grooming is a complex process, which takes a relatively long time. It can take days, months, even years to gain access to a minor, gain his trust, maintain relationships, and avoid disclosure by minors (Wachs et al., 2021; Crawford, 2020). The strategy used by online groomers is fraud (Gámez-Guadix et al., 2017). Adults pretend to be their age, use photos of others, lie, have similar hobbies and interests, and build new, more attractive identities in the eyes of victims (Bergen et al., 2014; Quayle et al., 2014).

Children and adolescents are victims who are often targeted by adults because children do not fully understand using the Internet access they use. This often happens because of the lack of supervision from parents towards teenagers in accessing the internet and using social media properly and correctly. Moreover, teenagers become one of the victims of Child Cyber Grooming which has a very bad and negative impact on children (Holivia & Suratman, 2021). Individuals in this case adolescents spend a lot of time with family, friends, school and neighbors (Crawford, 2020). However, there are still many parents who do not understand or have awareness of the importance of education about social media wisely, while there are still many parents who do not understand or have awareness of the importance of education about social media wisely. Through bibliometric analysis, it provides insight into current research trends on parental control online. Data shows that parental supervision in cyberspace as a future research direction (Hamza H.M. Altarturi & Anuar, 2020).

Methods

This study used correlation research. The subjects of the study involved 768 students of SMP N 6 Semarang. The sampling technique used is simple random sampling by taking 20% of the total population, which amounts to 154 students. The method of data collection is carried out using psychological scale instruments. The instrument is first tested for content validity expertly and item validity using the item-total *product moment correlation technique*. Furthermore, reliability tests were carried out using the Spearman-Brown halving technique. Data analysis techniques use correlation.

Results and Discussion

Based on Sig (2-tailed) Significance Value: From the output table above, it is known that the Sig. (2-tailed) value between Parental support (X) and cyber grooming (Y) is $0.000 < 0.05$, which means there is a significant correlation between the Parental support variable and the cyber grooming variable.

Table 1. Descriptive Statistics

	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
Parental support	66,18	10,367	154
Cyber grooming	96,66	8,790	154

Table 2. Correlations

		Parental support	Cyber grooming
Parental support	person correlation	1	,295**
	sig. (2-tailed)		,000
	N	154	154
Cyber grooming	person correlation	,295**	1
	sig. (2-tailed)	,000	
	N	154	154

Based on the value of r count (Pearson Correlations): It is known that the calculated r value for the relationship of parental support (X) with cyber grooming (Y) is $0.295 > r \text{ table } 0.1572$, it can be concluded that there is a relationship or correlation between the variable Parental support and the variable cyber grooming. Because r count or Pearson Correlations in this analysis is positive, it means that the relationship between the two variables is positive or in other words, the increasing parental support, the understanding of cyber grooming in junior high school students will increase.

Cyber grooming of children and adolescents is one form of sexual abuse of children online and is a phenomenon of cybercrime that is on the rise (Nikolovska, 2020). All forms of crime such as cyber grooming, bullying, gender violence, bank fraud, among others have the same pattern: social manipulation for profit such as personal or financial satisfaction. The openness and availability of digital communication allows people to express their opinions freely (Zambrano et al., 2023).

Cyber grooming presents complex psychological impacts associated with anxiety, stress, depression, phobias, low self-esteem, feelings of guilt and shame, as well as suicidal ideation and self-inflicted injury (Wood, 2003). Machimbarrena further explained that problematic internet use such as cyber grooming is also associated with many problems such as decreased quality of life, changes in healthy habits (sleeping, eating, physical activity, etc.) and disruptions in family, social, and academic life. The consequences of cyber grooming in children are numerous and emerging evidence links experiences of child sexual abuse to higher rates of mental health and behavioural problems (Machimbarrena et al., 2018). Mental health disorders in children who experience sexual abuse either directly or in the context of cyber grooming are higher than in children who do not experience cyber grooming (Walrath et al., 2003; Frothingham et al., 2000). A retrospective study, studying adults identified as experiencing sexual abuse in childhood, found symptoms of psychosocial problems, educational and employment difficulties, drug abuse, inappropriate pregnancies, aggression, and criminal activity (Sigríður Sigurjónsdóttir, 2012).

Parents are the smallest unit of a society consisting of the head of the family and several people who come together and live somewhere in a state of interdependence. Parental support is a person's perception that he is part of a social network that supports mutual care, reliability, mutual respect and acceptance of their respective conditions (Sri Kuntjoro & Zaenudin, 2002). Parents are the main controllers over the child's character building process. Friedman (Friedman, 2020) explains that parents have several types of support, including informational support, assessment support, instrumental support, and emotional support. This support manifests in good communication with teenagers, being friends with teenagers both in the real world and cyberspace.

Kamar et al., (2022) states that socializing through unstructured social media with peers without parental supervision increases the likelihood that online sex offenders will continue to engage in sexual activity with their victims. On the other hand, the perpetrator does not continue the scam because he believes his target is communicating online under parental supervision (passive or active). The three main factors that cause cyber grooming are parents, self-ability, and self-regulation. This shows that there is a need to increase awareness and awareness for parents, schools and the government about the dangers of cyber grooming (Dorasamy et al., 2021).

This is also reinforced by the results of research (Sani et al., 2021), the study aims to increase awareness of parental involvement in preventing the risk of cyber grooming in adolescents. Initially, parents were unaware of the phenomenon, after being given an explanation of how the process of cyber grooming occurs in adolescents, 97% of participants considered it very important. To prevent risk, 52% of participants said they talked to their children about online risks and took precautions to minimize their vulnerability. Some 89% of respondents said they know where to report cybercrime. In line with this, the four factors identified in cyber bullying and cyber grooming are The duration of device use is one of the main determinants of child involvement, in addition to parental supervision, phubbing behavior, pro-social tendencies, and family socioeconomic background (Tintori et al., 2023).

The challenges of preventive interventions in adolescents related to cyber grooming and cyber bullying based on their respective meta-analytical studies are very limited (Calvetea et al., 2020). The results of this study can provide an overview of research ideas related to preventive efforts that can be done for adolescents. This shows that parental support and supervision both in the real world and cyberspace can reduce the prevalence rate of cyber grooming in junior high school adolescents. Talking to teens about the risks of playing social media, how they take care of themselves online, and how they seek help in the event of cybercrime is a challenge and imperative for today's parents.

Conclusion

Social media apart from being a social media also began to accommodate content that is contrary to the norms that apply in society. It seems to be very effective in things that inadvertently harm teenagers. The problems that have recently been most experienced by teenagers on social media are cyber bullying and cyber grooming. Teens spend a lot of time with family, parents, and peers. But there are still many parents who do not understand or have awareness of the importance of education about social media wisely. The results showed a statistically significant association between parental support and understanding of cyber grooming. The higher the parental support, the higher the teenager's understanding of the dangers of cyber grooming. Parental support plays an important role in preventing cyber grooming. This finding further demonstrates the need for further study of collaborative efforts between schools, parents to keep adolescents in cyberspace and can be followed up into research ideas so as to enrich the study of cyber grooming in adolescents.

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