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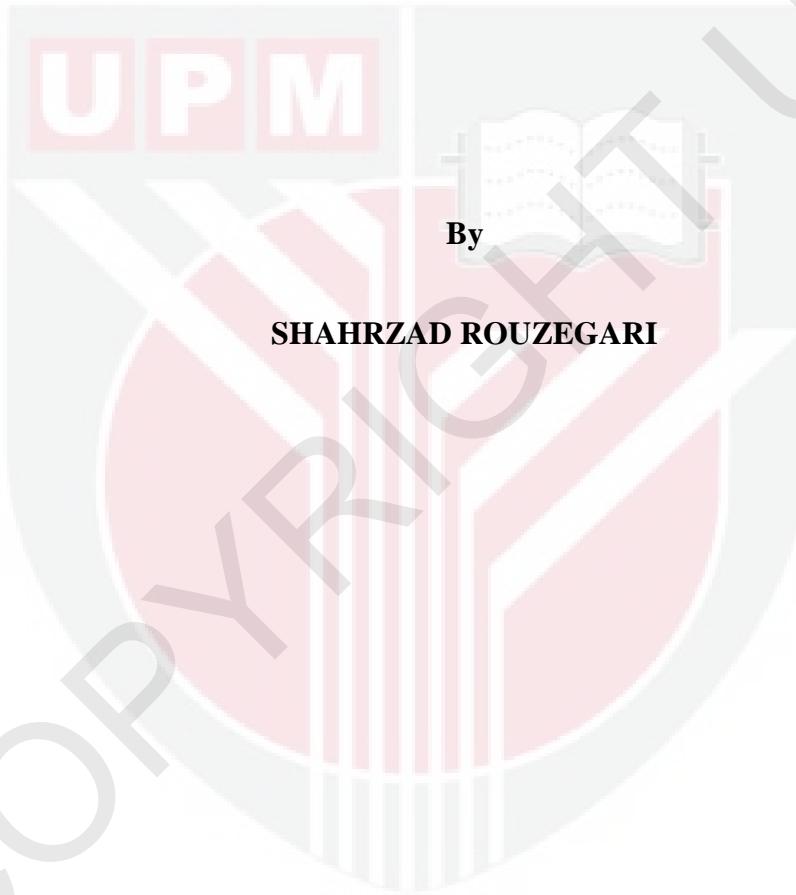
**RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN PERSONALITY TRAITS AND ATTACHMENT TO
PARENTS AND PEERS, WITH DELINQUENT BEHAVIOR AMONG
ADOLESCENTS IN TEHRAN, IRAN.**

SHAHRZAD ROUZEGARI

FEM 2013 7



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**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra
Malaysia, in Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science**

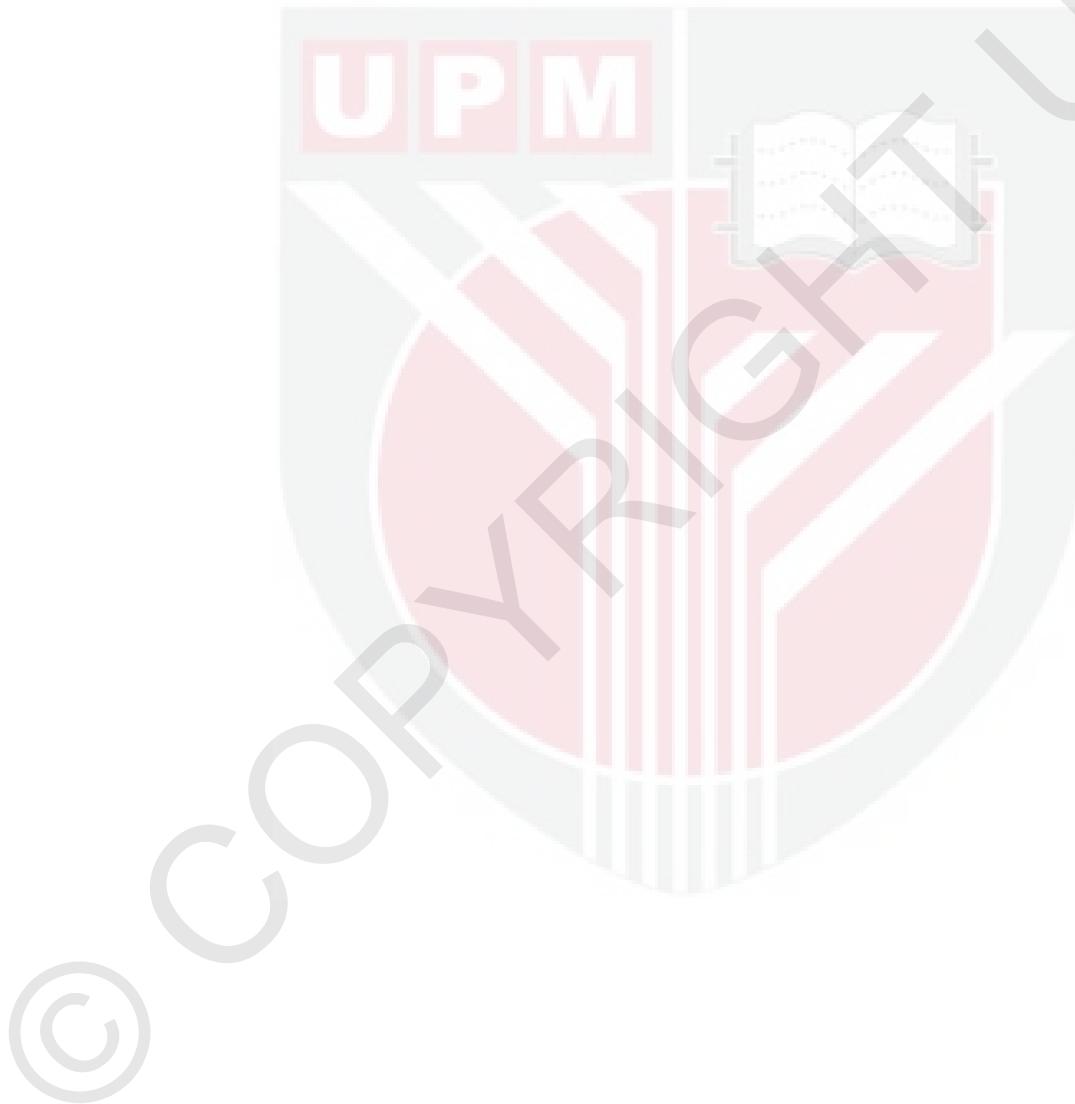


September 2013

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DEDICATION

I would like to dedicate my thesis to my beautiful mother, Habibeh, for her endless love and support; My greatest source of motivation to study and learn.



Abstract of thesis presented to the senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science

RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN PERSONALITY TRAITS AND ATTACHMENT WITH PARENTS AND PEERS WITH DELINQUENT BEHAVIOR AMONG ADOLESCENTS IN IRAN

By

SHahrzad Rouzegari

September 2013

Chair: Associate. Prof. Rumaya Binti Juhari, PhD

Faculty: Human Ecology

The study aims to examine the relationships between personality traits and attachment with parents and peers with self-reported delinquency, among Iranian adolescents in Tehran, Iran. The study concentrated on delinquent behaviors reported by the adolescents themselves. A total of 315 adolescents (165 girls and 150 boys) aged between 12 to 18 years old selected from public guidance and high schools of Tehran, Iran were involved in the study.

The research design of study was correlational, cross-sectional survey and multi-stage cluster sampling technique was used to choose the respondents. Students who had

broken the rules of schools at least one time (according to Tehran General Organisation of Education, 2011) were selected as respondents. Respondents were asked to answer the self-questionnaires booklet which included of age, gender, number of siblings, area of living, parent's age, job and education, and the monthly income of the family. Personality traits (Psychoticism, Extraversion, and Neuroticism) as independent variables were measured with *Junior Eysenck personality Questionnaire (JEPQR-S, Corulla, 1990)*, attachment to parents and peers were measured with (IPPA-R), *Inventory of Attachment to Parents and Peers (Greenberg & Armsden, 1987)*, as mediating factor, and self-reported delinquency was assessed by *an Adapted Version of Self-reported Delinquency Questionnaire (Carroll, 1996; Mak, 1993)*, as the dependent variable in this study.

The results of the study revealed a positive significant correlation between Psychoticism ($r=.151$), Extraversion ($r=.238$) and Neuroticism with delinquency ($r=.114$) among respondents. Attachment with mother mediated the relationships between personality traits and school misdemeanors and attachment with father mediated the relationship between personality traits and school misdemeanors and physical aggression offences. However, the mediation effect of attachment with peers on the relationship between psychoticism, extraversion and neuroticism with delinquency was not established. The findings of the current study indicated that despite having a strong attachment to parents and peers, adolescents may involve in delinquent behavior because of their personality characteristics like being high in psychoticism, extraversion and neuroticism.

According to the results of current study, the personality model of Hans Eysenck is a useful method to describe delinquent behavior in adolescents. Adolescents who are high in psychotism, extraversion and neuroticism are more likely to be involved in delinquency. Besides, social control theory of Hirschi is a proper ecological model which indicates that having good relationship with mother and father decrease the probability of juveniles ‘involvement in physical aggression and school misdemeanors offences.

The results have a number of important implications for parents, teachers, schools, psychologists, ministry of education, and above all, the social aids who deal with delinquent adolescents in correction and rehabilitation centers, to develop an accurate intervention program for adolescents at high risk of delinquency. Findings of current research will help to early identification of students who were reported as high level of involvement in delinquent behaviors, to plan immediate comprehensive program to prevent them from involving in more serious problems in future.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains

**PERKAITAN ANTARA TRET PERSONALITI DAN PERAPATAN DENGAN
IBU BAPA DAN RAKAN SEBAYA DENGAN TINGKAH LAKU DELINKUEN
DALAM KALANGAN REMAJA DI TEHRAN**

Oleh

SHahrzad Rouzegari

September 2013

Pengerusi: Prof. Madya Rumaya binti Juhari, PhD

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Kajian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji hubungan antara personaliti dan perapatan dengan ibu bapa dan rakan sebaya dengan menggunakan soal selidik, dalam kalangan remaja di Tehran, Iran. Kajian ini memberi tumpuan kepada tingkah laku delinkuen yang dilaporkan oleh remaja itu sendiri. Seramai 315 orang remaja (165 perempuan dan 150 lelaki) yang berusia antara 12 hingga 18 tahun yang dipilih dari sekolah menengah rendah dan menengah atas milik kerajaan di Tehran, Iran telah terlibat dalam kajian ini.

Kajian adalah berbentuk korelasi, kajian keratan rentas dan teknik persampelan kelompok pelbagai peringkat telah digunakan untuk memilih responden. Pelajar-pelajar

yang telah melanggar peraturan sekolah sekurang-kurangnya satu kali (mengikut Pertubuhan Am Pendidikan Tehran) telah dipilih sebagai responden. Responden diminta untuk mengisi borang soal-selidik yang merangkumi soalan berkenaan demografik seperti umur, jantina, bilangan adik-beradik, tempat tinggal, umur ibu bapa, pekerjaan dan tahap pendidikan ibu bapa, serta pendapatan bulanan keluarga. Tret personaliti (Psikotis, Extraversi, dan Neurotik (PEN) yang merupakan pembolehubah bebas telah diukur dengan menggunakan *Junior Eysenck Personality Questionnaire (JEPQR-S, Corulla, 1990)*); perapatan dengan ibu bapa dan rakan-sebaya telah diukur menggunakan Inventori Perapatan dengan Ibu bapa dan Rakan sebaya (IPPA-R), *Inventory of Attachment to Parents and Peers-revised version (Greenberg & Armsden)*, sebagai mediasi dalam kajian ini; manakala delinkuensi telah dinilai menggunakan *an Adapted Version of Self-reported Delinquency Questionnaire (Carroll, 1996)*, sebagai pemboleh ubah bersandar dalam kajian ini.

Dapatan kajian menunjukkan hubungan yang positif dan signifikan antara psikotik ($r = 0.151$), extravensi ($r = 0.238$), dan neurotic dengan delinkuensi ($r=0.114$) dalam kalangan responden. Perapatan dengan ibu menjadi pengantara ke atas hubungan antara tret personaliti dengan salah laku sekolah, sementara perapatan dengan bapa menjadi pengantara hubungan antara tret personaliti dengan salah laku di sekolah dan kesalahan agresif fizikal di kalangan responden. Walau bagaimanapun, tiada kesan pengantaraan bagi perapatan dengan rakan sebaya ke atas hubungan antara ekstraversi, psikotis, dan neurotik dengan delinkuensi. Hasil kajian menunjukkan walaupun mempunyai perapatan yang kukuh dengan ibu bapa dan rakan sebaya, remaja masih boleh terlibat dalam

tingkah laku delinkuen disebabkan ciri-ciri personaliti yang tinggi dalam tret psikotik, extravensi dan neurotik.

Berdasarkan hasil kajian, model personaliti Hans Eysenck adalah berguna untuk menggambarkan tingkah laku delinkuen di kalangan remaja. Remaja yang tinggi dalam *psychoticism*, *extraversion* dan *neuroticism* lebih cenderung untuk terlibat dalam delinkuensi. Selain itu, teori kawalan sosial Hirschi adalah model ekologi yang sesuai untuk menunjukkan bahawa hubungan yang baik dengan ibu dan bapa dapat mengurangkan kebarangkalian penglibatan juvana dalam keganasan fizikal dan salah laku di sekolah.

Keputusan kajian ini mempunyai beberapa implikasi yang penting terhadap ibu bapa, guru, pihak sekolah, pakar psikologi, kementerian pendidikan, dan organisasi sosial yang membantu remaja yang terlibat dengan delinkuensi di pusat serenti, untuk membina program intervensi bagi remaja yang berisiko tinggi terhadap delinkuensi. Dapatkan kajian dapat membantu untuk mengenalpasti remaja berisiko pada tahap awal, yang dilaporkan terlibat dengan tingkah laku delinkuen, supaya pembangunan program yang segera dan komprehensif dapat dijalankan untuk remaja bagi mengelakkan mereka menjadi remaja yang lebih bermasalah pada masa depan.

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I would like to thank Dr. Borjali at University of Alame Tabatabai of Tehran for his assistance to validate and translate the scale of Self-reported Delinquency from English to Persian and Dr. Carroll at University of Queensland who guided and allowed me to apply her instrument to measure adolescents' self-reported delinquency. I give a heartfelt thanks to my lovely boyfriend, Ahmad, and all my friends for their supports in this journey.

APPROVAL

I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 19 September to conduct the final examination of Shahrzad Rouzegari on her thesis entitled "Relationships between Personality Traits and Attachment to Parents and Peers, with Delinquent Behaviour among Adolescents in Tehran" in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the Master of Science.

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DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously, and is not concurrently, submitted for any other degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia or at any other institution.

Shahrzad Rouzegari

Date: 19 September 2013



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