

DEVELOPMENT AND EFFECTIVENESS OF SOLUTION-FOCUSED GROUP WORK ON SELF EFFICACY, GOAL ORIENTATION BEHAVIOR AND MOTIVATION FOR ACHIEVEMENT AMONGST MALAYSIAN ADOLESCENTS

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By

RATNADEVI A/P R. SHUNMUGAM

Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

December 2018

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Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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December 2018

Chair: Professor Sidek Mohd Noah Faculty: Educational Studies

Adolescents are viewed as vulnerable to peer pressure, egocentrism, risk taking, impulsivity, lack of self-control and posed irrationality and immaturity. However, many researches dispute this view as merely adult stereotypes of adolescents which persist without strong behavioral evidence. Adolescents have all the abilities and resources to flourish, grow and live a satisfying life. Past researches revealed that variables like selfefficacy, goal orientation behavior and achievement motivation are key elements to produce successful adolescents. The integration of these variables enables adolescents to affirm their capability in accomplishing given tasks, assures their ability to construct goals of their own and eventually gain constant motivation to achieve goals. With well-planned interventions, adolescents can be guided to utilize their strengths to lead a successful adolescence hood. One such intervention is Solution-focused Group Work (SFGW) approach which is proven to be effective in resolving adolescents' life struggles. This approach ought to facilitate changes in clients, in the way chosen by them. The primary purpose of this study is to develop SFGW intervention program based on Solution-Focused tenets. The study aimed to determine the effectiveness of SFGW in increasing self-efficacy, goal orientation behavior, and achievement motivation of Malaysian adolescents.

This is a true experimental with pre-test and post-test design using Solution-focused module and administration of questionnaires for data collection. Descriptive analysis was used to determine the demographic characteristics and validation and reliability of SFGW intervention program. Pretest was administered to 259 samples from two secondary schools in Selangor and 66 samples were selected based on their scores in pretest. After the administration of pre-test, a total of 66 samples who met the inclusion requirement were assigned randomly to experimental (n = 32) and control (n = 34) groups using paired-matched design. The samples in experimental group were given treatment using the SFGW intervention program for seven weeks.

After the completion of the treatment, posttest and follow-up test were carried out and data was collected for dependent variables. The collected data was analyzed using descriptive statistics, paired-sample t-test, independent samples t-test, one-way repeated measure ANOVA and MANOVA.

The result yielded that SFGW has good validity and high reliability with alpha Cronbach of .87 and .94 respectively. This suggests that the intervention program has consistency and reliable to be used in school setting. Paired-sample t-test measures the samples in the experimental group twice using the same questionnaire at pretest and posttest. The result discloses that the SFGW treatment increases samples self-efficacy, goal orientation behavior and achievement motivation. The analysis also concludes that SFGW is the factor in increasing self-efficacy, goal orientation behavior and achievement motivation of Malaysian adolescents. The results add value to comprehension of postmodern intervention which is suitable to be implemented in school setting as the limitation of time and number of participants in such setting. This study provides an insight on empirical finding about the suitability of Solution-focused approach in school setting. This enables counselors to refresh their theoretical knowledge and also provides alternative intervention. The study too offers new knowledge to counselors on the importance of selfefficacy, goal orientation behavior and achievement motivation variables in empowering adolescents. Future researches are anticipated to explore issue of interventions especially postmodern intervention like SFGW in various settings in Malaysia.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah

PEMBINAAN DAN KEBERKESANAN MODUL PENDEKATAN SOLUSI-FOKUS SECARA BERKUMPULAN (SFGW) KE ATAS EFIKASI KENDIRI, TINGKAHLAKU PENETAPAN MATLAMAT DAN MOTIVASI PENCAPAIAN DALAM KALANGAN REMAJA MALAYSIA

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Remaja merupakan golongan yang mudah terpengaruh dengan tekanan rakan sebaya, kurang kawalan diri, mengambil risiko, tidak rasional dan tidak matang. Walaubagaimanapun, banyak kajian menyangkal pandangan tersebut sebagai semata-mata stereotaip orang dewasa terhadap remaja. Stereotaip ini berleluasa tanpa sebarang penyelidikan dan bukti yang kukuh. Sebaliknya, remaja mempunyai semua kebolehan dan sumber untuk membesar dan menjalani kehidupan yang memuaskan. Pembolehubah seperti efikasi kendiri, tingkahlaku penetapan matlamat dan motivasi pencapaian merupakan elemen penting dalam melahirkan remaja yang berkesan. Kajian-kajian lepas menyatakan kepentingan menggabungkan ketiga-ketiga pembolehubah supaya remaja mengetahui keupayaan mereka dalam menyiapkan sesuatu tugasan. Selain itu, remaja juga dapat memahami keupayaan mereka dalam menetapkan matlamat sendiri dan sentiasa mempunyai motivasi untuk mencapai matlamat yang ditetapkan. Pendekatan dan intervensi yang dirancang rapi dapat digunakan untuk membimbing mereka dan menyungkil kekuatan diri untuk menjalani kehidupan yang berjaya. Pendekatan Solusifokus secara berkumpulan (SFGW) merupakan salah satu pendekatan yang terbukti keberkesanannya dalam kalangan remaja. Pendekatan ini membolehkan remaja menuju ke arah perubahan yang dipilih oleh mereka. Matlamat kajian ini adalah untuk membangunkan intervensi Solusi-fokus secara berkumpulan berdasarkan prinsip-prinsip teori Solusi-fokus. Seterusnya, kajian ini bertujuan untuk menentukan keberkesanan intervensi Solusi-fokus secara berkumpulan dalam meningkatkan efikasi kendiri, tingkahlaku penetapan maklumat dan pencapaian dalam kalangan remaja Malaysia.

Kajian ini berbentuk eksperimen dengan pra-ujian dan post-ujian. Kajian ini menggunakan intervensi SFGW dan juga soal selidik untuk mendapatkan data kajian. Analisis diskriptif digunakan untuk menentukan maklumat demografik serta kesahan dan kebolehpercayaan intervensi SFGW. Seramai 66 daripada 259 populasi kajian dipilih berdasarkan perskoran dalam pra-ujian untuk menyertai kajian ini sebagai sampel. Selepas praujian dilaksanakan, samples diagihkan secara rawak dalam kumpulan eksperimen (n = 32) dan kawalan (n = 34). Kumpulan kawalan diberi intervensi SFGW selama tujuh minggu. Selepas intervensi dijalankan, data dikutip melalui post-ujian dan ujian susulan. Data yang dikumpulkan di analisis menggunakan analisis deskriptif, t-test, ANOVA dan MANOVA.

Keputusan kajian menunjukkan program interventi SFGW mempunyai kesahan dan kebolehpercayaan yang tinggi iaitu alpha Cronbach of .87 and .94 masing-masing. Dapatan ini menunjukkan program interventi SFGW ini sesuai digunakan di sekolah. Dapatan kajian merumuskan bahawa program interventi SFGW meningkatkan efikasi kendiri, tingkahlaku penetapan matlamat dan pencapaian dalam kalangan remaja. Analisis MANOVA pula membuktikan bahawa program interventi SFGW merupakan faktor penyumbang dalam peningkatan skor efikasi kendiri, tingkahlaku penetapan matlamat dan pencapaian dalam kalangan remaja.

Keputusan kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa program intervensi SFGW adalah sesuai dan mempunyai kebolehpercayaan untuk digunakan di sekolah. Intervensi yang menggunakan teori Solusi-fokus ini mempunyai kelebihan dari segi penggunaan masa yang singkat dan bilangan sampel yang sedikit dan sesuai untuk peringkat sekolah. Kajian ini juga menyumbang kepada dapatan emprikal tentang program intervensi SFGW di peringkat sekolah. Kaunselor pula mendapat ilmu dan alternatif baru tentang program intervensi yang menggunakan pendekatan kaunseling post-moden. Dapatan kajian ini juga membolehkan kaunselor menyedari kepentingan meningkatkan efikasi kendiri, tingkahlaku penetapan matlamat dan pencapaian dalam kalangan remaja. Kajian ini juga membuka ruang baharu untuk diterokai terutamanya pendekatan Solusi-fokus oleh pengkaji tempatan di masa depan.

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This thesis was submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia and has been accepted as fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The members of the Supervisory Committee were as follows:

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This is to confirm that:

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Overview

This chapter will provide a summary of the background of the study, problem statement, objectives, research questions, and hypothesis of the study. The significance of the study to policy makers, schools, counselors and society will also be discussed. And the last part will define the terms as per the usage in this study.

1.2. Background of the Study

Those individuals in the age span of 13 to 19 are identified as adolescents (Santrock, 2016). Currently, 1.2 billion adolescents aged 10 to 19 living in this world (Palfrey, Gasser, Colin & Garrit, 2011) where 5.5 million are residing in Malaysia (Ishak, Zainun, Chin, Mohd. Taib & Mohd. Shariff, 2016).

Adolescence is a complex stage of life which involves transition period from childhood into adult. This stage of life creates risks, resiliency and opportunity in adolescents. Adolescents face physical growth and sexual maturation and these growths influenced by factors like gender, race, body mass, living environment and health status (Curtis, 2015). Cognitive development becomes crucial at this stage in determining a positive adolescence hood. Cognitive growth is viewed as a core component for critical (Santrock, 2016) and abstract thinking development among adolescent. Adolescent cognitive abilities influenced by the changes in brain activities like pruning, myelination process and the development of prefrontal cortex in brain. The prefrontal cortex permits individuals to think, evaluate and make judgment on issues surrounds them. During adolescence, the prefrontal cortex is biologically undeveloped and this cause the ability to control impulses abridged (Feldman, 2011). This development creates a unique entity characterized by changeability and an increase in networking among brain regions. The change causes the increase of emotional intensity and prioritization of peer relationship. Furthermore, adolescents face diverse, rigorous and competitive circumstances in schools which emphasizes on academic success and achievement (Curtis, 2015). Thus, the changes and immature brain development may lead to risky and impulsive behaviors like misjudgment (Feldman, 2011), which viewed by adults as incompetence in adolescents (Moshman, 2011).

Critical thinking will not mature fully in adolescents' age if the fundamental skills like literacy and mathematical skills were not developed during childhood. Some other adolescents who have developed cognitive changes will pose an improvement in their critical thinking. The grasp of critical thinking will enable the adolescents to increase the capacity of information processing, knowledge in various aspects of life, ability to construct new knowledge, create impulsive strategies and procedure in getting and

applying the new knowledge. Hence, adolescents with good critical thinking skills will plan, ponder the alternatives and monitor their new knowledge or behavior continuously (Santrock, 2013).

The development of critical thinking will eventually increase cognitive control in adolescence. This progress will enable adolescents to control their attention and reduce interfering thoughts. Controlling attention is seen as a principal aspect of learning and thinking in adolescents as well as adults. Distraction on thinking engrained from external environment like others opinion, and self-thought distraction such as worries will divert the attention on thinking tasks. Adolescences have to comprehend and adapt the cognitive flexibility. They need to be mindful about the choices, alternatives and possibilities available in every change, challenges and struggles in their life. In facing the adolescence life cycle, they need to change the way of thinking and motivated to involve in certain tasks assigned or forced to. This cognitive flexibility will increase adolescence confidence level, aware about their ability to think to a particular task or situation (Santrock, 2013). Bandura (1998) classified this ability as an aspect of self-efficacy. Individuals with strong self-efficacy will have less possibility to give up on challenging task.

Failure to master these skills will deter adolescents from strive for achievement and self-identity. Adolescents' achievement not solely depends on the intellectual ability but jointly determined by psychological, motivational and contextual factors (Santrock, 2013). Curtis (2015) said that adolescents' achievement of independence and self-sufficiency depends on conformity to familial, cultural identity, expectations and obligations in life.

Since achievement becomes critical during adolescence where they begin to perceive success and failures as predictor as future outcomes in adulthood (Santrock, 2016). Unfortunately, current social system, regarded academic achievement as a determinant factor of adolescents' achievement. Those are unsuccessful academically will face social disapproval. Many students are found to be lack of reading, writing and mathematical skills. Lack of these skills produces more drop outs, inability to secure a decent job and much less to be knowledgeable citizen (Santrock, 2013). In nutshell, societal disapproval and lack of academic skills may become catalyst for failed adolescence.

1.2.1. Malaysian Adolescents

A total of 5.5 million or 18.9% of Malaysian population are people aged between 10 – 19 years old who categorized as adolescents. During this stage of life span, adolescents face major physical, psychological and social changes (Ishak, et al. 2016). The main objective of Malaysian education system is to produce students with high creativity and critical thinking skills together with an efficient problem-solving skill (National Educational Blueprint, 2013). Unfortunately, Malaysian adolescents are portrayed as unstable and lack of skills in facing obstacles in their life. They involved in undesirable

activities like illegal racing, gangsterism, drugs, bully, and sexual activities. Apart from this, they too are mentally unbalanced to handle psychological disturbance like social anxiety, lack of self-focus, low self-esteem and self-efficacy (Mahzam Mohd. Saad, 2013). The incapability of Malaysian adolescents to think and act promptly against life crisis contributes to social problems among them. School students especially those in secondary are seen to lack of these skills and vulnerable to involve in socially ill activities. They always endured conflicts which defined as trivial issues like hair styles and clothing with adults in their environment. The conflicts are due to the rapid physical growth compared to cognition development, that is, rational judgment (Ciccarelli & White, 2015). Adolescents with low self-confidence and feelings of futility may regard this period of life as brawl and hard (Morton & Montgomery, 2013). Adolescents viewed as vulnerable to peer pressure, egocentrism, risk taking, impulsivity, lack of self-control and posed irrationality and immaturity. Moshman (2011) in his writing, however, dispute these views as merely adult stereotypes of adolescents which persist without strong behavioral evidence.

Razali, Dokoushkani & Rajendran (2013) labeled students' at-risk as academically withdrawn, low self-efficacy and self-esteem, lack of confidence and posed a blank future. Predictors for such behaviors are identified to be rooted from personal conflicts, poor social and family background, and unfriendly school environment. Lack of personal development contributes to the misbehavior of students in the school settings. This could be resulted from the inability of them to make the right decision by blaming others like parents, teachers and the community as well. Mental health disorders too are prevalent in Malaysian society nowadays (Azizan, Razali & Pillai, 2013). Mental disorders among adolescents were reported up scaling pattern in developing countries like India and Malaysia. This phenomenon indicates that Malaysian adolescents like any other adolescents around the world are not immune to the challenges and do suffer dissatisfaction and unhappiness.

In spite of the arguments above, Ishak, et al. (2016) research showed that a proper guidelines and instillation of life skills can lead adolescents to attain a healthy lifestyle. This study on Malaysian adolescents aged between 13 – 14 years old who are overweight, obsess and unhealthy weight loss practice was taught skills to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Overweight and obsess which is the major problem among Malaysian adolescents rooted from eating disorder like unhealthy eating and weight related behavior. Adolescents who were taught skills to overcome overweight and obsess problem and lead a right eating behavior, showed tremendous improvement in maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Therefore, the result of the study prevailed that Malaysian adolescents have the ability to acquire life skills and consequently lead a successful life.

1.2.2. Positive Behaviors of Adolescents

Adolescence is bound to be the period of building plans for the future among adolescents. Adolescents are able to express their perception about success and the experiences that bring meaningfulness in their life (Karabanova & Bukhalenkova, 2016).

Adolescents' achievement is defined as the intellectual ability. Adolescents with high intellectual ability will be persistent at task and confident about their ability to solve problems. In contrast, low intellectual ability adolescents will give up easily and lack of self-confidence in their academic skills. Adolescents viewed as inheriting very low achievement expectations. They are not adequately challenged to strive for achievement. Achievement is considered as a vigorous component in adolescence. Reasons as why adolescence age is considered as critical age in achievement are; (1) any current success or failure may influence the future outcomes of adolescents in their adulthood; (2) life challenges may lead adolescence into new area of live which put them into conflict; and (3) the adaption and endurance onto the new area of lives and social pressure will determine their adulthood (Santrock, 2016).

Karabanova & Bukhaenkova (2016) conducted research on three groups of adolescents; not satisfied, satisfied and most satisfied with life. They concluded that only a small number of adolescents lead a life with no desire for achievements and lack of meaning in life. The majority of adolescents fall in the category where they satisfied with life and perceive success as popularity in society, social recognition and achievements. But, adolescents in this category demonstrate lack of confidence. The most satisfied group of adolescents viewed success as self-development and self-actualization. They portrayed positive image of success and associate success with positive emotions, happiness and personal growth. In total, the research enriched adolescents as people crave for success and able to lead a successful life.

Leticia (2013) emphasized the importance of empowering adolescents with independence and self-confidence to ensure self-regulate learning attitude. Their finding shows that adolescent' perceptions, motivation and emotion level, effort and the outcome of the activity they are involved in. Effort and persistence for goal achievement found to be effective in enhancing adolescents' ability to direct and control their self-regulated learning process. This study on 269 4th grade secondary school students in Spain concluded motivation and emotion as mediating variables which play vital role to build persistence and commitment towards goals set among adolescence. Hence, adolescents' ability to perform and achieve their goals related to the amount of empowerment received by them.

A study by Chow & Bob (2013) on 324 Year 11 students in Brunei revealed the importance of extrinsic motivation and the control of anxiety among art stream students who enrolled in combined science stream. The high level of anxiety was caused by the thought of not getting good grades in science. And, these thought and attitude undermines student's confidence level towards the task assigned. As the remedial to this, teachers need to play their role by providing suitable exercise and techniques to deal with science papers. Such intervention enables students to gain confidence and reduce the anxiety towards science subject. Extrinsic motivation found to be helpful in boosting students' performance level. The instillation of extrinsic motivation achieved by showing the importance of scoring good grades in science will enable them to secure good job. Another strategy suggested is assigning slightly difficult task to students. Even though difficult tasks will demotivate them, once success attained students will be encouraged to do better by putting more effort.

Teachers were found to be core agent by encouraging, giving positive feedback, praise and affirm students' belief that they can do well. Teachers play an important role in motivating students to gain learning experience, personal goals, work exposure and social experience. Teachers can engage students by allowing them to develop attainable goals that meet their needs in learning. In return students will learn new knowledge. skills and motivation to learn (Rubenstein & Thoron, 2014). Rewarding is linked to students' progress in attaining their goals and achievement behavior in schools. Students tend to be confused about their identity. By providing information about their identity, norms and commitments, identity related problems can be reduced. Such information and reaffirmation needed the most because students tend to doubt their capability (Najafi, Rahnama & Sabor, 2016). Fadlelmula (2010) asserts that teachers' encouragement develops students' achievement goals. They learn to adapt teachers' goal in learning mathematics which provides them mastery learning, if the teacher emphasizes on that. Teachers who accentuate on performance based and reward the achiever only will lead the students to accustom such goals. As for those who cannot put up themselves at par might feel left out and avoid performance goals. This traditional approach seems inappropriate and unnecessary as mastery learning will enable students to set their goals and increase their capacity to learn mathematics (Elias, Syed Mustafa, Roslan & Sidek, 2011; Fadlelmula, 2010). Hence, guiding students with relevant methods and techniques will boost students' confidence level and bring improvement in their study.

The development of motivation is a complex cognitive process from the early age. The students' viewpoint about motivation is very much depends on their self-perception of the ability which they perceived through information. Children who are exposed to success since young tend to have high perception on their ability to achieve their goals (Alderman, 2008). Achievement motivation differs along an individuals' life span. A capacity is identified as a core component in achievement motivation in children. As they become adolescents, their achievement motivation is influenced by factors like parent-child interaction, peer group and cultural differences (Curtis, 2015). Chetri (2014) recommended that high level of aspiration is vital to develop high need of achievement. Teachers and parents play an important role in assisting students to set high goals and develop relevant skills to achieve them. In order to avoid achievement block, students should be aspired according to their gender and ability. Another contributing factor to achievement motivation is frustration. Continuous and repeated failure may lead to frustration and further deter students' motive to achieve. Continues encouragement to develop patience and proceed with their goal until the success achieved is much needed.

Developing students' intellectual level like problem solving ability, thinking and reasoning also give due impact on student's achievement motivation. Students should be given a clear and objective goal to achieve. A clear goal will make the students to view the goal objectively and various paths available to achieve certain goals in their life. Parents and teachers are the agents in promoting students' achievement motivation. They are responsible in giving support, affection, encouragement, information, and properly handle any doubts brought by adolescents. Since adolescents is the age that full of irrational beliefs build biologically, parents and teachers are the catalyst in rationalizing their beliefs (Chetri, 2014).

Adolescence is grouped from the age of 13 - 19 years old. They face major changes physically and cognitively and in search of self-identity (Santrock, 2011). Adolescents can be categorized into early adolescents aged 10 to 14 and late adolescents aged 15 to 19. Late adolescents have more confidence and clear objective about their life. They develop the ability to evaluate risks and make more decisions. This is the phase of making decision about career, pursing higher education and involve in family life (Palfrey, et al. 2011). In order to obtain a successful adolescence hood, adolescents should experience the sense of significance, competence and power. Failure in fulfilling these three aspects, will lead adolescents to misbehave in the eyes of adults. On the other hand, adults are expected to acknowledge and provide rooms for adolescents to acquire their significance, competency and power (Vernon, 1980).

Adolescence also is seen as the age of opportunities (Palfrey, et al. 2011). Successful adolescents are viewed as those who able to endure difficulties and challenges. These adolescents scrutinize their difficulties and challenges as a stepping stone to achieve desired success academically as well as in their career development (Santrock, 2011). A number of researches were conducted in Malaysia to ascertain Malaysian adolescents' capability to acquire skills to lead a successful lifestyle. They have shown great ability in overcoming problems like stress, personality disorders, overweight and obsess, low self-esteem, lack of self-regulation and academic issues. Well planned interventions have proven to be successful in empowering Malaysian adolescents (Othman, Borhan, Hashim, Chang, Tie, Lim A. ... John Arul, 2014; Mahzam Mohd. Saad, 2013; Bavani, Mohan & Sorooshian, 2012; Zakaria & Asyraf, 2011; Ishak, et al. 2016). Overall, previous studies indicate that adolescents are inborn with the capabilities to lead a successful life with the guidance from the adults. Supports and continuous encouragements will enhance their ability and build an effective future.

1.2.3. Strategies to Empower Adolescents

It is timely that Ministry of Education has had introduced National Educational Blueprint (2013) with one of the focus is to produce a well-informed student, be it academically or non-academically. Schools are encouraged to create a harmonious environment for students to explore themselves and provide opportunities for them to correct their behavior. Since adolescence is a crucial stage to develop their strengths towards positive living. They need to be empowered with confidence and ability to figure out solutions for their own problems (Morton & Montgomery, 2013). Razali, et al. (2013) clinched that Malaysian adolescents face problems in schools and at home which in return challenges their adolescence life cycle. Kuldas, Hashim & Hairul (2015) viewed adolescents' involvement in at-risk activities are associated with factors like negative social environment, low self-concept, bad parental influence and disadvantaged socioeconomic background. Despite all the hindrance factors, there are many adolescents who succeeded within same unfortunate background. They have shown satisfactory ability in using their cognitive tasks to face challenges and attain success.

Moshman (2011) affirmed that, despite the difficulties and stereotypes by the adults, adolescents often demonstrate remarkable competence in leading their adolescence

world. This contradict view requires empirical evidence on what makes them to be successful despite all the challenges. Hence, Kuldas et al. (2015) recommend the development of a care giving relationship model for Malaysian adolescents to boost their cognitive tasks performance and resilience. Thus, all they need to grow as positive adolescents are be recognized, appreciated, and acknowledged by adults (Moshman, 2011). In line with this, current study aimed to assist the adolescents to create their own goals and challenge their thoughts and ultimately achieve the goals set in a group setting.

Mahzam Mohd. Saad (2013) suggested that students should be given a continuous guidance and assistance to develop their life skills. Othman, et al. (2014) recommended schools to provide support and opportunities for adolescents to explore and form their identity through co-curricular and instructional approach. Acquiring adequate skills will empower students to face challenges in life positively. Ultimately, students with stable mental state will contribute to the wellness of themselves as well as their environment like schools. Students who have a clear understanding on themselves and equipped with necessary skills to face challenges will later increase their academic achievement and decrease disciplinary problems in school setting (Mahzam Mohd. Saad, 2013).

Counseling has been portrayed negatively by individuals, schools, and media. There is stigmatization that those with inability to solve problems or failed to cope with everyday issues will go for counseling service (Corey, 2005). Malaysian in general have negative connotation towards counseling. They fear counseling and understood that such service meant for people with mental illness. Malaysian cultures thought them to rather keep their problems than discuss it with others like counselors (Bavani, et al. 2012). In school settings, referral clients outnumbered the voluntary clients. In general, students who see counselors are referred by school personnel's like teachers, administrators or even parents. Students' resistance level mounted as they view counseling as to serve those who sent them for counseling. Such a view defeats the purpose of counseling. But, in reality adolescents want a space where they can discuss and practice realistic decision making (Corey, 2005).

Engaging in group work and role-playing activities will provide a platform for them to make real-world decisions on matters like sex and drugs (Santrock, 2013). Ishak, et al. (2016) suggested that peer led intervention is vital because it creates better awareness, increases self-efficacy and healthy behavior. Group interventions provide opportunity for adolescents' personal development. As to assist and uphold the importance of counseling, numerous studies conducted in school setting and researchers encourage new studies be conducted in schools (Joker & Ghaderi, 2015). In recent years, research on counselors' competency, effectiveness of counseling and various intervention modules was validated and tested its reliability in school setting (Mahzam Mohd. Saad, (2013); Amalia & Sidek, 2013; Bavani, et al. (2012); Zakaria & Asyraf, (2011). Schools and teachers are considered as a powerful catalyst in building and molding adolescents' character. These catalysts are grooming bodies which affect adolescents' characters in long term (Sokatch, 2017). With this progress in mind, counselors may reach more students to assist them in their positive personal development.

Solution-Focused theory shift clients' problem-based talk to solution focused talk. The theory initially used in family therapy, and consistently developed to be used with various groups. Solution-focused approach was proven to be efficient in a marathon-based session from 4 to 16 hours within 1 to 3 days. Meanwhile, traditional Solution-focused group sessions can be carried out within the average of 6 sessions (Reiter & Chenail, 2016). Currently, Solution-focused approach gained popularity in schools setting (Franklin, Moore & Laura, 2008) and found to be effective among school dropouts prone adolescents (Franklin, Kim, Tripodi & Stephen, 2007). This approach too found to be relevant with mild and moderate depression adolescents (Reddy, Thirumoorthy, Vijayalakshmi & Hamza, 2015).

In addition, Solution-focused approach found to be effective in reducing adolescents' truancy rates in high schools. A total of 38 adolescents aged 16 – 17 years old participated in the study. Experimental group showed a reduction of 61% of truancy rates compared to control group (Enea & Ion, 2009). Daki & Savage (2010) research ascertains that Solution-focused approach is an efficacious intervention in addressing students' academic and emotional difficulties.

Adolescents are viewed as competent and full of ability to endure their life journey (Moshman, 2011; Santrock, 2013). They have inner strength for achievement to lead their life. To lead a successful adolescence hood, they need psychological, social and other related supports from adult (Santrock, 2013). All they need is affirmation on their capability in accomplishing given tasks, ability to construct goals of their own and constant motivation to achieve goals.

The integration of self-efficacy and goal setting techniques would be beneficial to increase achievement motivation among adolescents (Zimmerman, Bandura & Martinez-Pons, 1992). Hence, current study will develop an intervention program which looks into adolescents self-efficacy, goal orientation behavior and achievement motivation grounded by Solution-focused theory, McClelland Motivational Theory and Social Cognitive Theory.

The efficacy of any interventions determined based on several aspects like the quality of research methodologies to investigate the intervention (McGowan, 2011). Psychoeducational groups defined as educational, skills training or self-understanding or self-knowledge groups. The purpose of the psycho-educational groups is to equip the members with knowledge, provide feedback on the effect of their behavior and build self-confidence (Capuzzi & Stauffer, 2010). For the purpose of the study, SFGW refers to the experimental and control group which will undergo SFGW's seven weeks intervention program. These groups will be tested on their self-efficacy, goal orientation behavior and achievement motivation before and upon the completion of the intervention. Hence, integration between Solution-focused approach and group work will definitely anticipated in providing a solid intervention in Malaysian schools.

1.3. Problem Statement

Abd. Hamid, Ismail, Saad, Ibrahim (2015) concluded that adolescents at-risk involve in suicidal attempt, substance abuse and premature pregnancy, but are relatively low in Malaysian context. The study suggests more preventive programs being developed for Malaysian adolescents so that, Malaysia can produce a better future generation. Programs that focus on soft skills development, values and morals education and life competency skills on how to behave for adolescents are largely in need. Programs based on group works found to be effective as adolescents are more contented to express themselves in the peer groups (Corey, 2012). As to laud the need for interventions, current study develops an intervention program using SFGW in Malaysian context. Such interventions using SFGW approach proven to be effective in resolving adolescents struggles in life like low self-esteem and depression (Javanmiri, Kimiaee, Bahram & Ghanbari, 2013; Mahzam Mohd. Saad, 2013; Reddy, et al. 2015).

Current behavioral problems portrayed by Malaysian adolescents are suicidal, internet addiction, drug offences, stealing, house-breaking (Mohd. Isa. Hashim, Kaur & Ng, 2016; Tin, Jessemine Khoo, Wong & Tan, 2017). The Lee (2014) reported that juvenile crimes show an increasing trend from 3700 cases in 2012 to 7816 in 2013. Malaysian adolescents also depicted as have no appropriate knowledge of life skills such as refusal skills, communication skills, anger control and coping mechanism with emotion (Marjan & Hayati, 2017). Apart from this, Malaysian adolescents facing mental illness like depression and various addictions like internet and substances uses. Literature reviews (Kuldas et al. 2015; Abdullah, Ortega, Ahmad, Ghazali, 2015; Mohd Isa, et al. 2016; Tin, et al. 2017) suggested early psycho-educational interventions in schools to assist adolescents in coping with social issues. The cause of behavioral problems among adolescents is their failure to cope with daily life stressors. Such failure leads adolescents to inability to control behaviors and involved in undesirable activities. Researchers suggest teachers and school counselors to help adolescents by increasing programs focusing on coping skills and emotional regulative strategies. As to laud the suggestions from previous researches, current study develops SFGW intervention program which aimed to increase adolescent's self-efficacy, goal orientation behavior and achievement motivation. The dependent variables are found to be core elements in helping adolescents to create suitable social skills.

To date, in attempt to address issues related to adolescents, local researchers documented numbers of studies which mainly pay attention to the outcome of interventions using various theories and approaches like Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Rational Emotive Therapy (Mahzam Mohd. Saad, 2013; Amalia & Sidek, 2013). Most of these studies focused on the effectiveness of such approaches on adolescents' academic achievement, self-esteem and self-efficacy. Literature reviews revealed the significant of the self-efficacy, goal orientation behavior and achievement motivation as keys to produce successful and quality adolescents. Unfortunately, these variables were not tested together in studies in Malaysia. Furthermore, only handful of these studies focused on the effectiveness of Solution-focused group work intervention among adolescents which focuses mainly on student's academic achievement. Thus, current study is in the hope to fill in such loop in counseling intervention field. The study will

reveal the effectiveness of Solution-focused group work on adolescents' goal orientation behavior, self-efficacy and achievement motivation.

Mahzam Mohd. Saad (2013) urged counselor to accept the reality that mastering various interventions models will help them to be at par with modernization in counseling service. But, mastering intervention models alone is insufficient. Counselor need to have skills to incorporate various interventions like family approach and developmental approach in their service. Such skills will give way for future growth in the counseling profession (Bayani, et al, 2012).

As a solution to the current predicament, school counselors now have an innovative, brief and effective Solution-focused intervention. The finding of the effectiveness of SFGW will provide an alternative intervention for counselors in Malaysian schools.

1.4. Objectives of the Study

Based on assumptions derived from the research problems, the primary purpose of this study is to develop Solution-focused Group Work (SFGW) module based on Solution-Focused tenets. This study too examines the effectiveness of SFGW in increasing adolescents' self-efficacy, goal orientation behavior and achievement motivation between experimental and control groups. Specifically, the study seeks to examine the nine research objectives as follows:

- a) To develop Solution Focused Group Work (SFGW) intervention module.
- b) To determine the effectiveness of SFGW in increasing adolescents selfefficacy mean score (comparing pre-test, post-test and follow-up test)
- c) To compare the effects between SFGW intervention module (treatment group) and traditional module (control group) on adolescent's self- efficacy mean score for post-test and follow-up test.
- d) To determine the effectiveness of SFGW in increasing adolescent's goal orientation behavior mean score (comparing pre-test, post-test and follow-up test).
- e) To compare the effects between SFGW intervention module (treatment group) and traditional module (control group) on goal orientation mean score for post-test and follow-up test.
- f) To determine the effectiveness of SFGW in increasing adolescents' achievement motivation mean score (comparing pre-test, post-test and follow-up test).
- g) To compare the effects between SFGW intervention module (treatment group) and traditional module (control group) on adolescents' achievement motivation mean score for post-test and follow-up test.
- h) To determine the effects of SFGW intervention module and traditional group adolescents' self-efficacy, goal orientation behavior and achievement motivation for post-test.

 To determine the effects of SFGW intervention module and traditional group adolescents' self-efficacy, goal orientation behavior and achievement motivation for follow-up test.

1.5. Research Questions

The research questions derived from the objectives of this study are as follows:

- a) Does Solution Focused Group Work (SFGW) intervention module valid and reliable to be used in Malaysian setting?
- b) Does SFGW intervention effects adolescents' self-efficacy, goal orientation behavior and achievement motivation?

1.6. Research Hypothesis

In order to provide answers to aforementioned research questions, the study offers eleven hypotheses, as follows:

- H_01 There is no difference of self-efficacy means score at pre-test, post-test and follow-up test.
- H₀2 There is no difference of self-efficacy between SFGW intervention module (treatment group) and traditional module (control group) at post-test.
- H₀3 There is no difference of self-efficacy between SFGW intervention module (treatment group) and traditional module (control group) at follow-up test.
- H₀4 There is no difference of goal orientation behavior means score at pre-test, post-test and follow-up test
- H₀5 There is no difference of goal orientation behavior between SFGW intervention module (treatment group) and traditional module (control group) at post-test.
- H₀6 There is no difference of goal orientation behavior between SFGW intervention module (treatment group) and traditional module (control group) at follow-up test.
- H₀7 There is no difference of achievement motivation means score at pre-test, post-test and follow-up test.
- H₀8 There is no difference of achievement motivation between SFGW intervention module (treatment group) and traditional module (control group) at post-test.
- H₀9 There is no difference of achievement motivation between SFGW intervention module (treatment group) and traditional module (control group) at follow-up test.
- H₀10 There is no significant the effects of self-efficacy, goal setting behavior and achievement motivation scores in experimental group compared to control group at post-test.
- H₀11: There is no significant effects of self-efficacy, goal setting behavior and achievement motivation scores in experimental group compared to control group at follow-up test.

1.7. Definition of Terms

Some terms used in this study have a specific meaning that is limited to the context of current study. For consistency of interpretation and clarity of report, the following terms are defined:

1.7.1 Self-efficacy.

Adolescence empowerments which lead towards solutions, however depends on the self-efficacy or ability to carry the task given among adolescence. Bandura (1986) mentioned that an individual with high self-efficacy will highly motivate to achieve their goals compare to individual with low self-efficacy. Self-efficacy is developed through personal and social construct. In school setting, self-efficacy instilled collaboratively as a group belief on their capability. Self-efficacy is found to be related to academic achievement (Pajares & Usher, 2008; Elias, et.al., 2011), goal-setting and self-regulatory attitude in school-aged adolescents. Empowering students' self-efficacy by providing them the strategies would beneficial in boosting their academic performance. This shows that students' academic achievement not solely depends on individual self-efficacy but incorporated with other variables like goal-setting, skills, knowledge, and social persuasion (Pajares & Usher, 2008). As for the study, adolescents' self-efficacy will be determined based on the scores between pre and posttest. The Self-efficacy scale developed by Schwarzer & Jerusalem (1995) was used to secure the scores.

1.7.2 Goal Orientation Behavior.

Goal-setting is considered as the determinant of an individuals' performance (Lunenberg, 2011) and directs a person to attain desired target. Goal-setting helps a person to determine achievable, relevant, value worth and attainable target. Such determination leads an individual to commit himself to certain task and put his effort to perform well even with low in self-efficacy. A persons' belief about his capability to achieve target is seems insufficient without goals (Pajares & Usher, 2008). Moeller, Janine, Theiler & Wu (2012) highlighted the connection between student's ability in goal-setting and Spanish language proficiency. Students increase their capability in goal-setting shows improvement in the Spanish language proficiency. Hence, students with high goal-setting behavior demonstrate high level of confidence and ultimately increase their performance. As for the study, adolescents' goal-setting behavior will be determined based on the scores between pre and posttest of Goal Orientation Scale (GOS) developed by Sreekala (2013) was used.

1.7.3 Achievement motivation.

Achievement motivation is defined as the success gained in various aspects like academic success and career success. It is also seen as the desire to attain realistic yet challenging goals. Individuals with high achievement motivation will allow others to provide feedback on their success (Ciccarelli & White, 2015). Factors like the belief of the individuals about their ability in performing certain tasks and their experience about success influence achievement motivation. External factors like schools, parenting styles, culture and values of the individuals too often influence the achievement

motivation (Shaffer & Katherine, 2010). Effort and persistence are vital components in achievement motivation (Leticia, 2013).

For the purpose of the study, achievement motivation refers to the drive, effort and persistence of an individual in setting goals and performs on the goals chosen. This ability will demonstrate confident about their capability and find solutions in any difficult circumstances arise which will be measured based on scores between pre and posttest using Achievement Motivation Scale developed by Prathiba Deo & Asha Mohan (2011).

1.7.4 Control group.

Control group in experimental research design is a group separated from the rest of experiment (Corey, 2012). The group is isolated from the independent variable which can help to rule out the alternative explanation on the experiment. For the purpose of the study, the control group was isolated from SFGW intervention where participants involved in daily school practice.

1.8. Significance of the Study

This study on the effectiveness of SFGW on adolescents' goal self-efficacy, goal orientation behavior and achievement motivation will add value to comprehension of postmodern intervention. This intervention is suitable to be implemented in school setting as the limitation of time and number of participants in such setting. It will also provide insights to counselors in schools to conduct a properly planned and researched theory in order to enhance their credibility and professionalism. It is hoped that the findings of this study will provide useful information regarding the importance of a social skills like self-efficacy, goal orientation behavior and achievement motivation to be imparted among adolescents to help them lead a successful adolescence hood to the various stakeholders.

The information may help policy makers to define accurately the role of counselors in the schools. Counselors may gain insight on post-modern intervention that suits current needs of students and other personnel in school settings. Furthermore, counselors may realize the importance of imparting social skills among adolescents and empower adolescents to lead a healthy lifestyle. The Board of Counselors on the other hand, able to monitor whether the appointed counselors delivered their services in accordance with the Counselors Act 1998. The findings to able identify shortcomings and dilemmas faced by counselors in schools in order to implement intervention programs.

And, as for researchers the findings enable them to explore issue of interventions especially postmodern interventions in various settings in Malaysia. By this, researchers able to identify and produce well researched interventions especially for adolescents in schools with behavioral problems. The research also may identify the importance of introducing intervention programs in schools through research on various topics of interventions.

1.9. Limitations

There were some limitations in the conducting the SFGW intervention. They are as follows:

- (a) The number of participants. There are only 66 participants involved in the study from two schools in Selangor. A larger number of participants needed to make generalization. Hence, the result of the study cannot be generalized to the population as a whole.
- (c) <u>The participants.</u> The information relied totally on the response of the participants. The participants may have provided an answer reflecting what the researcher expects and these responses may, therefore, be biased.

1.10. Summary

This chapter discussed the background of the study, problem statement, objectives, research questions, and hypothesis of the study. The significance of the study to policy makers, schools, counselors and society also presented. And, terms used specifically defined as per the usage in this study.

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