

Personality Effects on Deviant Behavior Among Adolescents: Concurrent Triangulation Technique

*Kesan Personaliti terhadap Tingkah Laku Menyimpang dalam Kalangan Remaja:
Teknik Triangulasi Serentak*

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Received: 14-6-2025 /Accepted: 4-10-2025

ABSTRACT

*Adolescence is a critical developmental phase marked by rapid physical, emotional, cognitive, and social changes. These transitions often lead to identity confusion, personality conflicts, and, in some cases, deviant behavior. This study investigates the personality factors contributing to deviant behavior among adolescents in Peninsular Malaysia through a mixed-methods approach. A survey using the **Big Five Personality Inventory (BFI)** was administered to 299 students, while **semi-structured interviews** were conducted with eight adolescents to gain deeper insights. Quantitative findings revealed that extraversion and neuroticism were significant predictors of deviant behavior. These results were consistent with the qualitative data, where adolescents with high neuroticism and impulsive extraverted traits reported greater involvement in deviant acts. Additionally, five major themes emerged from the data: openness, conscientiousness, exaggeration, agreeableness, and neuroticism, all of which showed various degrees of association with deviant tendencies. Extraversion was often expressed through sociability and risky behavior within deviant peer groups, while neuroticism was linked to emotional instability, including feelings of disappointment, self-harm, and the use of abusive language. These traits suggest vulnerability to negative influences in unsupportive environments. To mitigate deviant behavior, several strategies are recommended, such as strengthening positive parental role models, establishing community-based mentoring programs, implementing early behavioral screening in schools, and encouraging adolescents to participate in spiritual, recreational, and volunteer activities. Designed to address the needs of adolescents in high-risk settings, these interventions seek to establish a supportive ecosystem that builds emotional resilience, reinforces social bonds, and facilitates positive behavioral outcomes.*

Keywords: personality; deviant behavior; family; agreeableness

ABSTRAK

Remaja merupakan fasa perkembangan yang kritikal, ditandai oleh perubahan pesat dari segi fizikal, emosi, kognitif dan sosial. Peralihan ini sering membawa kepada kekeliruan identiti, konflik personaliti, dan dalam sesetengah kes, tingkah laku menyimpang. Kajian ini meneliti faktor-faktor personaliti yang menyumbang kepada tingkah laku menyimpang dalam kalangan remaja di Semenanjung Malaysia melalui pendekatan kaedah campuran. Soal selidik menggunakan Big Five Personality Inventory (BFI) telah dijalankan ke atas 299 pelajar, manakala temu bual separa berstruktur dilaksanakan bersama lapan orang remaja bagi mendapatkan pemahaman yang lebih mendalam. Dapatan kuantitatif menunjukkan bahawa ciri ekstraversi dan neurotisme merupakan peramal signifikan terhadap tingkah laku menyimpang. Hasil ini selaras dengan data kualitatif, di mana remaja yang mempunyai tahap neurotisme tinggi dan sifat ekstraversi yang impulsif dilaporkan lebih cenderung terlibat dalam tingkah laku menyimpang. Selain itu, lima tema utama dikenal pasti daripada data iaitu keterbukaan, ketelitian (conscientiousness), keterlaluan (exaggeration), kesesuaian (agreeableness), dan neurotisme, yang masing-masing menunjukkan tahap perkaitan tertentu dengan kecenderungan menyimpang. Ciri ekstraversi sering dizahirkan melalui sifat suka bergaul dan penglibatan dalam tingkah laku berisiko bersama kumpulan rakan sebaya yang menyimpang, manakala neurotisme dikaitkan dengan ketidakstabilan emosi seperti perasaan kecewa, kecenderungan mencederakan diri, dan penggunaan bahasa kasar. Ciri-ciri ini menunjukkan kerentanan terhadap pengaruh negatif dalam persekitaran yang tidak menyokong. Bagi mengurangkan tingkah laku menyimpang, beberapa strategi disarankan termasuk memperkukuh peranan ibu bapa sebagai model teladan positif, menubuhkan program mentor berasaskan komuniti, melaksanakan saringan awal tingkah laku di sekolah, serta menggalakkan penglibatan remaja dalam aktiviti kerohanian, rekreasi, dan kesukarelawanan. Reka bentuk intervensi ini bertujuan memenuhi keperluan remaja dalam persekitaran berisiko tinggi dengan mewujudkan ekosistem sokongan yang dapat membina daya tahan emosi, memperkukuh hubungan sosial, dan mendorong hasil tingkah laku yang positif.

INTRODUCTION

Deviance refers to a situation in which an individual reacts negatively to behaviors, beliefs, or actions deemed unwanted and unacceptable. According to Goode (2022), deviance does not necessarily involve deviant behavior but can also encompass emotions and beliefs. Adolescence, on the other hand, is often described as a challenging phase, frequently characterized as a period of crisis and difficulty in adapting behavior to societal expectations. This phase involves numerous changes, including physical development, self-adaptation, and coping with peer pressure (Dullas, 2021). In fact, they are not able to adapt or accept easily to the changes and eventually affect the emotional tension, show an aggressive attitude, easy to rebel, uncontrollable anger and get involved in social problems (Fariza & Azzyati 2015). Previous studies by Ezaddin and Azlina Abdullah (2023), have shown that different personality traits are associated with distinct patterns of deviant behavior among adolescents. However, certain aspects, such as the interaction between personality traits and social contextual factors, remain underexplored.

Based on Soto's (2018) study, the Five Factor personality involves the personality dimensions of openness, conscientiousness, agreeableness, extraversion and neuroticism will develop at the teenage and adult levels.

The development pattern of negative personality traits occurs from childhood to adolescence which involves a decrease in extraversion attitude, conscientiousness and adolescent boys show the highest level of neuroticism personality compared to adolescent girls (Soto 2018). Social issues among adolescents is a phenomenon that is increasingly troubling society in Malaysia nowadays. This social issue involves deviant behaviour that results in the breakdown of morals and morals at the same time causing adolescent to be involved in learning problems at school, dropping out of school and juvenile cases. Kartini (2014) states that this social disease or community disease is any behaviour that is considered inappropriate, violates the norms of community life, violates the law and cannot be integrated into general behaviour.

According to the Crime Statistics, Malaysia 2024 report, the national crime index increased to 52,444 cases in 2023, compared to 50,813 cases in 2022, with incidents largely involving violent and property crimes (Department of Statistics Malaysia, 2024). At the same time, the number of registered drug users and addicts rose to 192,857 in 2024, of which 61% were between the ages of 15 and 39 (Malay Mail, 2025). Data from the National Anti-Drug Agency (AADK) also revealed that 24,186 drug addicts were recorded in 2023, representing a 2.8% increase from 23,517 cases in 2022 (Department of Statistics Malaysia, 2024). These trends indicate that deviant behaviors, particularly those related to drug abuse, continue to contribute significantly to the crime statistics in Malaysia.

The perspective of individual personality differences is also related to the adolescent environment and influences the formation of adolescent behaviour (De Fruyt & Karevold 2021). Therefore, the appropriateness of using the Big Five Inventory (BFI) test tool coincides with measuring the personality of adolescents involved in deviant behaviour such as a low level of conscientiousness personality has a relationship with substance abuse behaviour (Bogg & Roberts 2004). While a low level of agreeable personality has a relationship with hostile behaviour (Miller et al. 1996). Individuals with high levels of neuroticism personality are associated with failure in coping skills (David & Suls 1999). Therefore, this study aimed to examine the influence of personality traits on deviant behavior among adolescents in Peninsular Malaysia by investigating the relationship between the Big Five personality dimensions and adolescent deviant behavior.

THEORY OF DEVIANT

Strain Theory provides important sociological insights into deviance by emphasizing how social and structural pressures can lead individuals to engage in deviant behavior. However, personality theories add another layer of understanding by explaining individual differences that may mediate this process. For example, the Big Five Inventory (BFI) has been validated in Malaysia, confirming that traits such as neuroticism, conscientiousness, extraversion, openness, and agreeableness are measurable and relevant within the local context (Mudayat, Jaladin, & Md Khalid, 2022). Among at-risk youth, behavioral difficulties have been linked to emotional stability and family conflict (Nor Ba'yah Abdul Kadir et al., 2018). Similarly, in studies of former prisoners, traits such as impulsive sensation seeking, hostility, and neuroticism have been found to be significantly associated with mental health outcomes (Mohd Suhaimi Mohamad et al., 2016). These findings suggest that integrating personality trait theory with Strain Theory will provide a stronger and more comprehensive theoretical framework for understanding adolescent deviant behavior.

There is also another relevant theory, the Anomie Theory, introduced by Émile Durkheim. According to Durkheim (1951), deviance can occur when social norms, values, and structures become unclear, broken, or dysfunctional, leading individuals to feel alienated or disoriented in society. The concept of anomie explains that significant social changes such as economic transitions, the decline of traditional values, and social imbalances can result in instability and deviant behavior.

According to Cohen (1965), juvenile delinquency is a reaction to status failure. Adolescents from lower classes often face status failure when they fail to meet the expectations of mainstream society (such as academic or social success). In a social system that emphasizes middle-class values, such as academic achievement and conformity to norms, adolescents from lower classes experience tension due to the lack of opportunities and resources to succeed. The implication is that these adolescents create alternative subcultures with their own values and norms that are contrary to mainstream society.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Dullas et al. (2021) found a significant gender difference in deviant behavior: female participants were more likely to commit minor violations, while male participants exhibited higher rates of serious violations. They also reported a negative association between family satisfaction and deviant behavior respondents more involved in deviance reported lower family satisfaction, and vice versa. Recent scholarship has increasingly examined personality factors as key predictors of deviant behavior. For example, Zhang and Zhao (2022) showed that virtuous personality traits (e.g. honesty, empathy, responsibility) reduce the likelihood of engaging in online deviance, with moral disengagement mediating the relationship and perspective-taking moderating it. Abdullah, Nasruddin, and Mokhtar (2021) similarly found that neuroticism, extraversion, and openness are positively associated with workplace deviance, whereas conscientiousness is negatively associated. Locally in Malaysia, recent studies provide additional empirical support. For instance, Mohd Suhaimi Mohamad and Haazik Mohamed (2022) analyzed personality types and mental health among university students and showed that certain personality dimensions (e.g., extraversion, anxiety traits) are significantly related to psychological distress. Similarly, Aziz, Abd Razak, Salina Nen, Jamiah Manap, and Suzana Mohd Hoesni (2023) explored adolescent deviant

behavior through in-depth interviews and identified parenting monitoring, parent–child communication, and religiosity as salient factors linked to deviant involvement.

Furthermore, a recent qualitative study by Aziz, Abd Razak, Salina Nen, Jamiah Manap & Suzana Mohd Hoesni (2023) explored adolescent deviant behavior via in-depth interviews and identified parenting monitoring, parent-child communication, and religiosity as salient factors linked to deviant involvement. Together, these findings illustrate that personality traits especially neuroticism, extraversion, low conscientiousness and contextual social factors (e.g., family dynamics, moral engagement, religiosity) are interwoven in explaining deviant behavior among youth. However, in the Malaysian context, there remains a need to further examine how the Big Five personality traits interact with social and family environments to influence deviant behavior among adolescents.

METHODOLOGY

RESEARCH DESIGN

This study employed a mixed-method approach using the Concurrent Triangulation Design (Creswell, 2009). Data were collected in two phases: the first phase (quantitative) and the second phase (qualitative). In the quantitative phase, a correlational method with a cross-sectional survey design was used (Creswell, 2014). The qualitative phase applied a case study design to explore the research questions in greater depth. According to Creswell (2014), a case study is a strategy that allows researchers to investigate programs, activities, or individual experiences in detail.

RESEARCH TOOLS

Two standardized instruments were used in the quantitative phase of the study.

1. Youth at Risk Screening Questionnaire (YRSQ): The YRSQ, developed by Michael G. Conner (2003), was adapted to measure deviant behavior among adolescents. The instrument consists of multiple items assessing risk-taking and deviant tendencies, with responses recorded on a 5-point Likert scale ranging from *1 = Strongly Disagree* to *5 = Strongly Agree*. A higher score indicates greater involvement in deviant behavior. The scale demonstrated high internal consistency, with a Cronbach's alpha value of 0.903 in previous validation studies (Roszita, 2010).
2. Big Five Inventory - 44 (BFI-44): The BFI-44, developed by Goldberg (1993), measures five major dimensions of personality: openness, conscientiousness, extraversion, agreeableness, and neuroticism. Each item is rated on a 5-point Likert scale (*1 = Disagree strongly* to *5 = Agree strongly*). Subscale scores are computed for each personality dimension, with higher scores reflecting stronger endorsement of the corresponding trait. The BFI-44 has been widely validated in different cultural contexts, including Malaysia, and demonstrates strong reliability.

RESEARCH SAMPLING

Five secondary schools were selected, namely Sekolah Tunas Bakti Melaka, Sekolah Tunas Bakti Sungai Besi, Sekolah Tunas Bakti Taiping, Sekolah Tunas Bakti Telok Air Tawar and Sekolah Tunas Bakti Marang. A total of 299 participants were selected for the quantitative phase using clustered random sampling, while 8 participants were purposively selected for the qualitative phase. The mixed-method design applied in this study followed a parallel sampling strategy (Ghazali & Sufean, 2016), where the samples for the questionnaire and interview were drawn independently. Therefore, the participants in the interview did not overlap with those in the survey. For data analysis, quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and inferential analyses (e.g., correlation, regression), whereas qualitative data were analyzed thematically to capture in-depth insights.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The integration of mixed design data which is the Concurrent Triangulation Design is explained in FIGURE 1.0 which shows the conceptual framework for this study. According to Creswell (2009), a study that uses the Concurrent Triangulation Design is a data method that is collected simultaneously and then looks at the comparison of the data obtained from two different data. The results from these two different data are evaluated through a discussion of the results of the quantitative data first, then look at the discussion of the qualitative data supporting or not supporting the quantitative data (Creswell 2009).

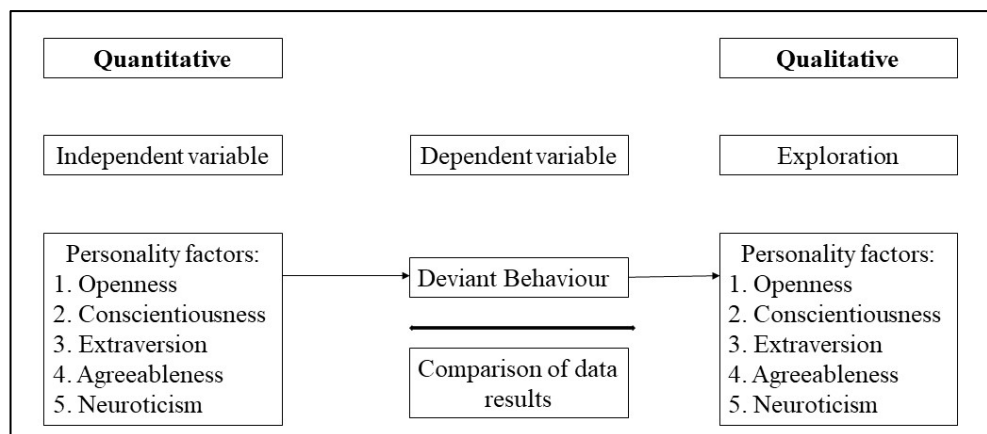


FIGURE 1. The conceptual framework for this study

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS

Descriptive results obtained aimed at identifying the level of deviant behaviour of adolescents in Peninsular Malaysia and aims to analyze demographic factors in this study. Therefore, the data of this study are attached in the form of percentages which are intended to give a clearer and more accurate picture of this study. The descriptive analysis result of the 299 respondents. The majority of respondents were aged between 16 and 17, representing (50.5%) of the total respondents. While

respondents aged between 18 and 21 years represented (26.4%) percent, the second highest group. Meanwhile, (23.1%) of respondents in this study were aged between 13 and 15 years. Based on the analysis of the study, there were (38.1%) of male respondents involved in the study while the remaining number consisted of female respondents (61.9%). This shows that the number of female respondents is more than the number of male respondents in this study. Many of the respondents were from Pahang at (15.1%). Followed by respondents from Johor with 42 people or (14%). The answer to the question is that the person who is the least likely to respond is the one who is the least likely to respond.

First Phase Result (Quantitative)

Regression Analysis

Multiple linear regression analysis was used to test the effect of personality factors on deviant behaviour as in TABLE 2.

TABLE 1. Multiple linear regression analysis

Dependent Variable	Independent Variable	B	β	t	Sig.
Deviant Behaviour (Y)	Constant	38.063		6.043	0.000
	Openness (X ₁)	-0.113	-0.097	-1.680	0.094
	Conscientiousness (X ₂)	-0.045	-0.033	-0.565	0.572
	Extraversion (X ₃)	0.158	0.113	1.976	0.049
	Agreeableness (X ₄)	-0.044	-0.026	-0.440	0.660
	Neuroticism (X ₅)	-0.267	-0.187	-3.300	0.001
R ²	0.091				
F	4.175				
Sig F	0.000				

The regression analysis showed that only two predictor variables, extraversion ($B = 0.158$, $\beta = 0.113$, $t = 1.976$, $p = 0.049$) and neuroticism ($B = -0.267$, $\beta = -0.187$, $t = -3.300$, $p = 0.001$), significantly predicted deviant behaviour among residents in Sekolah Tunas Bakti, Peninsular Malaysia. The other predictors – openness ($p = 0.094$), conscientiousness ($p = 0.572$), and agreeableness ($p = 0.660$) – were not significant. Together, extraversion and neuroticism accounted for approximately 5.5% of the variance in deviant behaviour scores ($R^2 = .055$, $F(5, 296) = 3.449$, $p < 0.01$).

$$Y = 38.063 + 0.158 (X_3) - 0.267(X_5)$$

Second Phase Result (Qualitative)

The qualitative component of this study, which involved eight adolescents with deviant behavior, provided deeper insights into how personality factors are manifested in real-life contexts. Using an intrinsic case study approach with semi-structured interviews, the findings highlighted five main personality dimensions openness, conscientiousness, extraversion, agreeableness, and neuroticism that shaped adolescents' tendencies toward deviant behavior. These results complement the quantitative phase by illustrating not only statistical associations but also the lived experiences and personal narratives that explain how and why certain traits contribute to deviant actions.

i. Main Theme 1: Openness Personality

The findings indicate that adolescents with an openness personality tend to display curiosity, a desire to explore new ideas, and an open attitude toward experiences. Interviews revealed that some research subjects expressed curiosity and interest even in activities associated with deviant behavior. The trait of being open-minded and eager to learn new things is consistent with the personality dimension of openness (Khalim, 2008). This study further shows that adolescents with this personality are inclined to experiment, which can increase their susceptibility to deviant behaviors. As noted by Halverson et al. (2003), openness is often reflected in a willingness to learn and explore one's environment, whether the outcomes are positive or negative. While openness can support cognitive growth and the learning process, without proper guidance it may also expose adolescents to negative influences, thereby increasing the likelihood of involvement in deviant behavior.

Sub-theme 1: Having Ideas (Want to Know)

As a result of the interviews conducted, there is a compatibility of openness personality with the attitude of having an idea, that is, the research subject wants to know what results can be obtained if a house is broken into. Also, Informant K1, argued that:

...Erm... if that thing wants to break the house, if he wants to give something, what is that thing? I like to know what that thing is. So, I can come along.

(Informant K1)

There are research subjects who are curious about new things, especially the things they are interested in (Informant K7):

...Interest to know new things. For example, right now, just now I know sitting in this, I heard a conversation from outside, what I heard there are 9 helmets that I am interested in motorcycle items. There are 9 most famous helmets, near here, there are only 9 in one state in Malaysia. Most limited. I also want to know about the helmet.

(Informant K7)

Sub-theme 2: Open Attitude

Open attitude refers to the personality of deviant adolescents who have an attitude of accepting an idea with an open mind, whether the idea is positive or negative. The attitude towards the misuse of substances such as taking drugs is the open attitude of the research subjects because they have a desire to try without coercion (Informant K6):

...The drug, I asked for it. I asked my friend. Think I want to try.

(Informant K6)

In addition, the open attitude shown by the research subject is having a feeling of wanting to try something after seeing his friend dare to do the deviant behaviour (Informant K2):

...If that's the case, I want to try that thing, I think people do it. I want to taste...

(Informant K2)

ii. Main Theme 2: Conscientiousness Personality

The results of the interview found that there were 3 sub-themes of conscientiousness personality that had been identified among the study subjects, the study subject's personality that carefully engages in deviant behaviour, organized planning and the study subject has an independent attitude to continue survival. The suitability of the personality of conscientiousness such as organizing and being careful about what is done. The conscientiousness attitude of the research subject is like being careful about the deviant behaviour that is done until the deviant activity is completed. Successfully implemented deviant behaviour such as planning to steal and successfully leaving the house without the knowledge of the parents is a conscientious personality trait that shows that the individual has successfully completed the task that has been planned (Zamorano et al. 2014). Adolescents who have a high level of conscientious personality have the trait of planning carefully (Morsunbul 2014). This statement is supported because there are individuals involved in deviant behaviour who have the personality trait of conscientiousness (Bogg & Roberts 2004). This finding shows that the personality of conscientiousness among deviant adolescents is aimed at doing deviant behaviour until it is finished, according to what they have planned and able to live independently in their own way.

Sub-theme 1: Carefully Perform Deviant Behaviour

The study subject has a careful personality to carry out housebreaking activities such as observing the host's (victim's) gestures and finding out the host's daily routine before committing the housebreaking. Also, Informant K3, argued that:

...if you steal more than RM 1,000.00. If you rob more than RM 5,000.00, RM 10,000.00 to RM 20,000.00. You haven't sold drugs yet. Erm... if you want to steal, for example. we have to watch him for a long time. Example if I want to attack my sister's house. Later I will pay attention to where I go, who I go out with, what time I return. We'll set it later, Monday he's like this, Tuesday he's like this. So it's Tuesday and make a plan, enter his house at 10.00 am. What time do you come back? That's Cam.

(Informant K3)

Sub-theme 2: Organizing Planning

Among the plans frequently used by the subjects of this study is planning the time to leave the house without the parents' knowledge. Among them is planning to leave the house at night, that is, the subject of the study makes sure his parents sleep first before leaving the house (Informant K5):

...at night, mom wants to sleep, then I go out. I have mom sleeping, I go out. After that at 4:00 in the morning, at 5:00 in the morning I went in.

(Informant K5)

In addition, there is a study subject who plans to leave the house without his parents' knowledge and plans to return home so that his parents know his child is always at home. Also, Informant K7, argued that:

...he didn't know that I went out that morning. Early in the morning we always wonder what time he wakes up. Calculate the set time to return. It's like he wakes up at 10:00 a.m., we go back at 9:00 a.m.

(Informant K7)

iii. Main Theme 3: Extraversion Personality

The results of the interview with the study subjects are 3 sub-themes for the extraversion personality which is socializing. The study subjects are happy when trying new and energetic things which are the study subjects involved in deviant behaviour showing the personality of an

active person. Extraversion personality includes active and sociable traits and if adolescents who cannot control this sociable trait well will cause problems in socializing with the wrong and are easily influenced by wrong behaviour in the social group (Khalim 2008). This happens because, when adolescents are in a social group, they make their behaviour influenced by that social dynamic group (Curwin & Mendler 1980). If the selection of the wrong social group makes it easy for adolescents to engage in deviant behaviour such as stealing, hanging out, hitting, smoking, drug abuse and having extramarital sex. The selection of deviants who have the same deviant criteria will lead to the formation of the same deviant behaviour (Rozmi & Norhayati 2007). This finding found that deviant adolescents will be more energetic when they are in the same deviant group because they have a personality compatible with their behaviour.

Sub-theme 1: Happy (Likes to Try New Things)

A happy personality that likes to try new things was also identified among the study subjects. For example, Informant K2 states that he has a high desire to do things he has never done before.

...I'm the type, if that's the case I don't know what to do. I will want to learn that thing.

(Informant K2)

In addition, transcript stated from the beginning that he had a desire to try drugs and had a happy feeling by doing the new thing.

...that drug, I asked for it. I asked my friend. Think I want to try. Taste good. Smoke out.

(Informant K2)

Sub-theme 2: Energetic (Active)

The personality associated with an energetic person refers to active behaviour, including having a lot of energy to do something, being active in sports, and being active in talking, such as enjoying conversations. The results of this study found that three participants declared themselves to be active persons (Transcript K1, Transcript K3, and Transcript K4). For example, one participant stated:

...I like to join football games every week. I don't feel tired easily. I always want to play...

(Informant K5)

Another participant expressed:

...I am very talkative; I like to chat with my friends. I don't like sitting quietly...

(Informant K2)

Meanwhile, another respondent shared:

...I always take part in school sports. I like running, it makes me feel good and healthy...

(Informant K1)

According to Hakin and Murnaghan (2002), a person with an energetic personality tends to have positive emotions in their lives. Energetic individuals also give good commitment through their actions and emotions (Erdheim et al., 2006). Energetic behaviour is therefore seen as one of the positive personalities that a person may have. When adolescents are involved in sports activities, it helps them maintain good health. Similarly, being active in speaking reflects the ability

to express and explain ideas effectively (Amir & Ahmad Rozelan, 2016). This finding shows that an energetic personality is one of the positive traits possessed by adolescents, even among those involved in deviant behaviour.

iv. Main Theme 4: Agreeableness Personality

This study has found 3 types of agreeable personality among the study subjects, namely the personality that obeys instructions to perform deviant behaviour, is difficult to forgive and the study subject also has a sympathetic personality. Overall, the study subjects showed a low agreeable personality. If adolescents have a low agreeable personality such as being stubborn, hostile, obeying orders only to do wrong behaviour, it is easy to suspect that they are not obeying the law and are selfish (Khalim 2008). The subjects of this study also expressed compliance according to instructions to do deviant behaviour and showed a difficult attitude to forgive more to hostility. This attitude of not caring, being easily influenced by the environment and not caring is related to the agreeable personality (Mann et al. 2015; Rozmi & Norhayati 2007). The study subjects who have a low conscientious personality show attitudes such as obeying instructions only to perform deviant behaviour and find it difficult to forgive or have feelings of revenge.

Sub-theme 1: Hard to Forgive

The attitude of forgiving is difficult to do when something really hurts the heart of the research subject, especially when the enemy spreads the badness of his mother and father. Also, Informant K3, argued that:

...no, it's not hard for me to apologize. Because I think that thing really hurts my heart, it's hard for me to forgive. If I say I'm ok, then don't bother me again at that time. When that sentence hurts the heart that relates to this mother and father, I'm like "Eiii babi la kau ni!". I straight said, "I don't forgive you!"

(Informant K3)

Forgiveness will only be given when the enemy of the study subject reprimands in a good way of communication. Even though the research subject knows what he did wrong, if the correct way of reprimanding communication will cause the research subject to forgive easily. If the way of communication is wrong, it makes it difficult for the study subject to forgive. Also, Informant K2, argued that:

...Let's say he made that opinion carelessly, or he continues to blame me. It's not wrong to blame myself if things are wrong. But it's his way of communicating. If the way he scolds me is good, I will follow.

(Informant K2)

Sub-theme 2: Sympathy

Sympathy refers to feeling sorry for someone or something when faced with something sad. Feelings of sympathy exist when an individual can understand the plight of the other party (Rizky, 2016). This feeling of sympathy was expressed by several respondents during the interviews. For example, one participant shared:

...I wanted to hit him, but then I felt pity, so I stopped. I don't want to hurt him...

(Informant K1)

Another respondent admitted:

...I felt sorry when I thought about stealing from a pregnant woman's house. I imagined how she would suffer, so I didn't do it...

(Informant K5)

There was also a respondent who expressed regret when neglecting his father's call:

...My father called many times, but I didn't pick up. Later, I felt sorry because he was worried about me...

(Informant K4)

These verbatim statements demonstrate that deviant adolescents still experience emotional empathy and sympathy, which often emerge in situations that remind them of their family or others' suffering. This finding shows that the study subjects have a sense of sympathy, which also involves anxiety and sadness when they see others in distress (Clark, 2010). It indicates that deviant adolescents have an emotional understanding of others based on their cognitive experiences (Helen et al., 2015).

v. Main Theme 5: Neuroticism Personality

As a result of the interview with the study subjects, it was found that 4 sub-themes have been identified that are related to neurotic personality, namely, holding grudges and feeling sad.

Sub-theme 1: Revenge

Having a personality like grudge or revenge refers to feelings of dissatisfaction and can even cause dangerous actions to happen to people they don't like. The results of this study found that there was a study subject who showed feelings of resentment and dissatisfaction towards someone. Feelings of revenge are expressed by voicing in the heart about the revenge and if the enemy makes an extreme provocation, it will cause a fight or an argument between them. Also, Informant K2, argued that:

...I also have a grudge. I also said in my heart "Don't let this grudge come back" (Informant K2).

Sub-theme 2: It's easy to feel sad

Neuroticism, such as being easily saddened, was also identified through the interviews in this study. Being easily sad indicates a sense of deficiency, emotional vulnerability, bitterness, despair, and a perceived helplessness in dealing with difficult situations. For example, one respondent expressed:

...When I get scolded or feel like no one understands me, I just keep quiet. I don't fight back, but deep inside I feel so sad and sometimes I cry alone...

(Informant K3)

Another respondent added:

...Sometimes I feel angry when people disturb me, but I don't know how to show it. In the end, I just keep it inside and it makes me feel sad all the time...

(Informant K2)

These verbatim excerpts illustrate how neurotic adolescents often internalize their emotions, struggling to regulate anger and instead experiencing persistent sadness when upset with someone or something. This study found that one of the research subjects experienced feelings of anger when confronted with problems that were challenging for him. However, he was unable to act on his anger or express it appropriately, and instead, he internalized those emotions and felt sadness. According to previous studies, individuals with traits associated with neuroticism often struggle to control their emotions (Mann et al., 2015). A high level of neuroticism is linked to negative behaviors, thoughts, and feelings, and it increases the risk of experiencing extreme anxiety and emotional disturbances (Soto, 2018). In fact, individuals involved in deviant and criminal behavior often exhibit neurotic traits (McEwan, 1983). For example, anxiety and a tendency to cause harm are characteristics of neuroticism that may arise due to emotional conflicts between individuals (Zuckerman & Kuhlman, 2000). These findings suggest that adolescents with high levels of neuroticism often struggle with emotional regulation and may display aggressive behaviors that can harm others as well as themselves.

A DISCUSSION ON THE INTEGRATION OF PERSONALITY FACTOR DATA ON ADOLESCENT DEVIANT BEHAVIOUR IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA

The results of the integration of research findings for personality factors are as in TABLE 3.

TABLE 3. Integration of quantitative research data with qualitative research for personality factors

Personality	Quantitative data	Qualitative data	Integration data
Extraversion	There is a significant positive relationship between extraversion personality and deviant behaviour.	1. Likes to Socialize 2. Happy (Likes to Try New Things) 3. Energetic (Active)	i. Data integration is parallel. i. Qualitative data supports quantitative data.
Neuroticism	There is a significant negative relationship between neuroticism personality and adolescent deviant behaviour.	1. Failing to Control Emotions Physically (Hitting, damaging things, fighting) 2. Failing to Control Emotions Verbally (Using abusive, negative words) 3. Hold a grudge 4. Easy to feel sad	i. Data integration is parallel. ii. Qualitative data supports quantitative data.

The integration results for the openness personality factor show that the qualitative and quantitative data results are not parallel. These results indicate that the qualitative data did not fully support the quantitative findings. Specifically, the quantitative analysis suggested no significant relationship between personality traits such as openness, conscientiousness, and agreeableness with deviant behaviour among adolescents. However, the qualitative interviews revealed that several respondents perceived aspects of conscientiousness (e.g., self-discipline, sense of responsibility) and agreeableness (e.g., cooperation, empathy) as protective factors that could reduce the likelihood of deviant behaviour. This discrepancy may be explained by contextual and situational factors highlighted in the qualitative narratives such as peer influence, family background, and institutional environment which were not fully captured in the quantitative survey.

The results of the integration of personality data show that there are two personality traits that have a relationship with adolescent deviant behaviour, namely extraversion personality and neuroticism personality. The integration data of extraversion personality is parallel for example the qualitative results support the quantitative results. Both study data results found that adolescents involved in deviant behaviour have an influence with extraversion personality traits. Qualitative data findings explain that deviant adolescents have personality traits such as like to socialize with groups or socialize with the same deviant for example. Socializing in the same group makes adolescents safer and more comfortable to do the same deviant behaviour, especially such as stealing, hitting, having extramarital sex, cheating and drug or substance abuse.

Extraversion personality such as liking to socialize in the same group has a relationship with adolescent deviant behaviour. Socializing with the same deviant for example is one-way adolescents find fun and find freedom (Nakhace et al. 2017). This is because when adolescents socialize in the same deviant group, it will lead to mutual understanding of deviant behaviour (Rozmi & Norhayati 2007). In addition, deviant adolescents who have an extraversion personality can show self-ability and energy. This supports the results of the study which found that adolescents dare to show their ability for example by engaging in deviant behaviour when they are with their friends.

The results of the neuroticism personality integration data are parallel, for example the results of the qualitative study support the results of the quantitative study. The results of the quantitative study show that there is an influence between neuroticism personality and adolescent deviant behaviour. This means that the neuroticism personality of adolescents in this study has a relationship with deviant behaviour. Neuroticism personality traits such as hot temper, having feelings of dissatisfaction, hitting and self-harming. According to Fikri et al. (2014), individuals with neurotic personality have a significant relationship with physical assault. In fact, neuroticism traits also show that the use of harsh language has an influence on deviant behaviour among adolescents.

This study shows that research subjects who have neurotic personality traits such as having unstable emotions are among the reasons for engaging in deviant behaviour. Neuroticism is a negative emotion associated with insecurity, frustration, anxiety and depression (Torrente & Vazsonyi 2012). Deviant adolescents who have a neurotic personality show a high level of repressed emotions (Rozmi & Norhayati 2007). Neuroticism trait is an individual's attitude of being easily angry and having a hostile attitude that can lead to adolescent deviant behaviour (Zuckerman & Kuhlman 2000). In fact, adolescents with a high neurotic personality show that they are in an unstable emotional state causing various behaviours to appear according to their feelings and lead them to perform negative and deviant behaviours (Khalim 2008).

Overall, extraversion and neuroticism personalities influenced the deviant behaviour of adolescents in the study. According to a study by Lee Randolph (2015), aggressive personality trait factors (neuroticism) children have a relationship with lack of parental monitoring. Among the aggressive attitudes of children are formed such as having feelings of anger, hurting others or objects, insulting, damaging property and crime (Espelage et al. 2013). This personality formation is important because good parental monitoring can help children feel safe with parents and can reduce the child's aggressive attitude as well as vice versa (Liuhua et al. 2015; Klfor examplewer et al. 2006). Children who have feelings of security with parents will feel more comfortable socializing with parents and socializing positively with society (Rudolph et al. 2011). This discussion shows that the role of parents plays an important role in shaping the personality of

adolescents to ensure that adolescents understand the psychological needs and social needs at adolescent age.

CONCLUSION

The implications of this study provide exposure to the community that symptoms of deviant behavior can begin as early as 12 years old. Identifying deviant adolescent personalities can help parents recognize positive attitudes to reinforce as well as negative attitudes that should be addressed. Personality factors that emerged from the integrated data analysis showed parallels between extraversion and neuroticism, both of which were consistently associated with deviant behaviours such as fighting, revenge, aggression, robbery, drug use, and engagement in premarital sex. However, a limitation of this study is that the focus was confined to personality factors, without incorporating other important variables such as family relationships involving parents and siblings. These relationships may strongly shape adolescent involvement in deviant behaviour, as sibling and parental dynamics both influence behavioural development. In addition, it is recommended that future studies examine adolescents' thinking styles, including aspects such as impulsivity, moral reasoning, decision-making under risk, and susceptibility to peer influence. These cognitive processes may explain why some adolescents rationalize or justify deviant behaviour, while others are more likely to resist peer pressure. Importantly, the mixed-method results highlight both similarities and differences. While quantitative data indicated no significant relationship between openness, conscientiousness, and agreeableness with deviant behaviour, the qualitative findings revealed contrasting patterns. For example, adolescents with high openness reported curiosity-driven deviance such as experimenting with drugs, theft, or sexual activity. Conscientious adolescents described the ability to plan and execute deviant acts without detection, while agreeable adolescents tended to conform to peer pressure within deviant groups. These findings suggest that although quantitative analyses did not detect strong correlations, the qualitative narratives uncovered situational and contextual mechanisms through which these traits may influence deviant behaviour. This discrepancy underscores the importance of triangulating data sources to capture both statistical patterns and lived experiences.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the anonymous reviewers for their valuable and constructive feedback, which has greatly enhanced the quality of this manuscript.

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