

KARTINI KARTONO'S CONCEPT IN ADDRESSING YOUTH DELINQUENCY

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Informasi Artikel

Sejarah Artikel:

Dikirim: 12-02-2025
Perbaikan: 24-02-2025
Diterima: 10-03-2025

Kata kunci:

Kartini Kartono, juvenile delinquency, social pathology, character building, prevention strategy.

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ABSTRACT

Juvenile delinquency is a social problem that continues to grow and has become a serious concern due to the increasing deviant behavior among young people as a result of social change and globalization. This study aims to explore Kartini Kartono's thoughts on strategies for preventing and addressing juvenile delinquency and to assess their relevance in the context of modern society. The study employs a descriptive qualitative method through a library research approach, using Kartini Kartono's book "Patologi Sosial 2: Kenakalan Remaja" as the main source and supported by other academic references. Based on the literature review, Kartini Kartono explains that juvenile delinquency arises due to the weakening of the family's role in moral education, low social control, negative environmental influences, and emotional instability among adolescents. The contributing factors include internal aspects such as identity crises, lack of self-control, and uncontrolled emotions, as well as external aspects such as family dysfunction, negative peer groups, and the influence of mass media. To overcome this issue, Kartini Kartono proposes preventive, curative, and rehabilitative approaches involving collaboration among families, educational institutions, communities, and the government. Her ideas remain relevant today as a foundation for building the moral character of young people.

Keywords: Kartini Kartono, juvenile delinquency, social pathology, character building, prevention strategy

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INTRODUCTION

The phenomenon of juvenile delinquency in the current era of globalisation has become one of the most pressing and complex social issues. Juvenile delinquency is not only related to individual behavioural deviations, but has become a widespread social phenomenon that affects family, school and community life. Kartini Kartono (2014:7) defines juvenile delinquency as a pathological social symptom in children and adolescents

caused by social neglect, leading them to develop behaviour that deviates from legal, religious, and social norms. Such delinquency can take the form of criminal acts such as mass fights (tawuran), drug abuse, theft, sexual deviance, and involvement in violence and criminal gangs. This condition is becoming increasingly serious because adolescents are the nation's assets who should become a

productive, characterful, and moral future generation.

The rise in juvenile delinquency cannot be separated from rapid social changes caused by modernisation, urbanisation, and developments in information technology. The process of urbanisation has led to changes in family structure from extended families to nuclear families that tend to be individualistic, resulting in looser supervision of adolescent development. A report by the United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, cited by Kartini Kartono (2014:10), also states that the increase in juvenile delinquency is a global phenomenon, especially in developing countries experiencing social tensions due to changes in values and culture. In Indonesia itself, the increase in cases of bullying, promiscuity, free sex among adolescents, gadget addiction, criminal acts among school-age children, and involvement in drug abuse shows that a moral crisis and degradation of values is occurring among the younger generation.

Kartini Kartono (2014:12–14) asserts that the causes of juvenile delinquency do not stem from a single factor, but are the result of the interaction of various internal and external factors. Internal factors include emotional instability, identity crisis, weak self-control, and personality development disorders. Meanwhile, external factors include dysfunctional families, lack of parental

attention and affection, failure of moral education, negative social environments, and weak social control from the community. Mass media and social media also contribute to accelerating the spread of a permissive culture that encourages deviant behaviour among adolescents. Therefore, the phenomenon of juvenile delinquency needs to be understood comprehensively through psychological, sociological, and educational approaches. As a social psychologist and education expert, Kartini Kartono offers a concept for tackling juvenile delinquency that does not only emphasise repressive aspects through punishment, but rather emphasises preventive, educational, and rehabilitative approaches. According to him, tackling juvenile delinquency must be done in an integrated manner through the roles of the family, school, community, and government. Character education and moral guidance must be strengthened from an early age, and there is a need for child rehabilitation institutions based on psychological and social guidance. Therefore, a study of Kartini Kartono's ideas is relevant and important as a reference in efforts to prevent and tackle juvenile delinquency in Indonesia.

Based on the above description, this study seeks to examine in depth Kartini Kartono's concept of addressing juvenile delinquency and its relevance to current social conditions. This study not only contributes theoretically to the development of educational

sociology and adolescent development psychology, but also has practical value as a reference in formulating strategies to combat juvenile delinquency through education, family, and social policy. Thus, this study is expected to make a real contribution to efforts to create a young generation in Indonesia that is high-quality, has good character, and is globally competitive. This effort requires synergy from various parties, including the family as the main foundation of education, schools as formal institutions for character building, the community as a social environment that influences behaviour, and the government as a policy maker that supports the positive development of adolescents.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach because it aims to describe, analyse, and deeply understand Kartini Kartono's concept of addressing juvenile delinquency. This approach was chosen because it is in line with the conceptual and theoretical characteristics of the research. According to Sukardi (2013:157), qualitative research is research that aims to understand the phenomena experienced by the research subjects holistically by describing them in words and language in a natural context. This is reinforced by Sugiyono (2019:9), who states that qualitative research is based on post-positivism philosophy, in which the researcher

acts as the main instrument for analysing data in depth and interpretatively.

This study utilised library research methods, focusing on an in-depth examination of various scientific literature sources relevant to the research topic. The literature study was conducted through a series of activities involving the collection, reading, recording, classification, and processing of data from written sources directly related to the object of study (Zed, 2014:3-5). In this study, the main data source was obtained from Kartini Kartono's work entitled *Social Pathology 2: Juvenile Delinquency* (2014) as the primary data source because this work became the main conceptual basis for examining her thoughts on the causes and forms of juvenile delinquency prevention. In addition, this study also utilised secondary data sources obtained from various supporting literature such as scientific books, academic articles, national and international journals, previous research reports, and other scientific works relevant to the discussion theme. Among the supporting sources used are Sintya Rahma Syahrir's (2022:45-47) writing on juvenile delinquency from an educational perspective, the theory of adolescent psychological development proposed by Sarlito W. Sarwono (2011:120-122), and a study of the factors causing deviant behaviour in adolescents explained by Abu Ahmadi (2007:65-68).

The data collection technique used in this study is documentation study, which is the

search for data sourced from written documents such as books, articles, scientific journals, and other relevant literature records related to the research object. According to Moleong (2017: 216-220), documentation studies are an effective technique in qualitative research because they allow researchers to systematically trace and reconstruct scientific thinking without being bound by space and time. The collected data was then analysed using an interactive analysis model developed by Miles and Huberman (1994), which consists of three main stages, namely data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. Data reduction was carried out to select and focus on data relevant to the research objectives through a process of classification and categorisation of theoretical information from Kartini Kartono's work and other supporting literature. After going through the selection and simplification process, the data is then presented in the form of a systematic narrative description to facilitate understanding of the relationships between concepts. The final stage of drawing conclusions is carried out repeatedly through a verification process to ensure that the research findings have scientific consistency and validity.

To ensure data validity, this study utilised source triangulation techniques by comparing information obtained from Kartini Kartono's work with the views of other experts and the results of previous studies relevant to

the discussion. Triangulation was conducted to enhance the credibility of the findings and avoid interpretative bias. In addition, this study also applied a theoretical comparative study to examine the relevance of Kartini Kartono's ideas in the context of modern scientific developments, particularly in the fields of educational sociology, adolescent developmental psychology, and contemporary juvenile delinquency studies. By using this descriptive qualitative approach based on literature studies, this research is expected to produce a comprehensive, argumentative, and in-depth analysis of Kartini Kartono's thoughts on tackling juvenile delinquency and her contribution to the development of contemporary social and educational studies.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on a literature analysis of Kartini Kartono's thoughts in her work *Social Pathology 2: Juvenile Delinquency*, supported by various other scientific references, it was found that Kartini Kartono's concept of tackling juvenile delinquency is comprehensive and oriented towards holistic human development. Her thinking not only describes the factors that cause juvenile delinquency, but also provides strategic concepts for its prevention and handling through psychological, educational, sociological, and moral approaches.

The results of the study show that Kartini Kartono views juvenile delinquency as

a form of social pathology that arises from the failure of social functions, especially within the family and the environment in which young people grow up. Juvenile delinquency is not merely deviant behaviour committed by individuals spontaneously, but a social symptom that develops as a result of weak supervision, lack of moral guidance, minimal emotional attention, and the inability of adolescents to control their psychological turmoil during the transition to adulthood. In Kartini Kartono's view, adolescents who experience psychological pressure and emotional conflict are more likely to commit deviant acts as a form of self-expression. Therefore, juvenile delinquency should be understood as a social and moral development issue that must be addressed humanely, not merely with repressive punishment.

Kartini Kartono's thinking emphasises that the causes of juvenile delinquency are multidimensional, involving internal factors (the personality of the adolescent) and external factors (the environment). The following is an explanation: **Internal Factors** Juvenile delinquency often stems from unstable psychological conditions, such as identity crises, emotional instability, lack of self-control, low self-confidence, frustration, and inner conflict. Some adolescents engage in deviant behaviour because they want to gain recognition from their peers or seek freedom in the wrong way. **External Factors** The family environment is the most dominant factor.

Kartini Kartono emphasises that dysfunctional families (broken homes), poor parenting styles (authoritarian or overly permissive), lack of parental attention, and minimal religious education are often the main triggers of juvenile delinquency. In addition, poor social conditions, peer pressure, and the negative influence of mass media and social media further exacerbate the development of deviant behaviour in adolescents.

Thus, the results of this study confirm Kartini Kartono's view that juvenile delinquency is not a stand-alone problem, but rather the result of complex interactions between the family environment, school, society, and the adolescent's own personality development.

Kartini Kartono classifies juvenile delinquency into several forms according to their level of danger. From the results of the analysis, these forms of delinquency include: first, violations of social norms such as truancy, disobeying parents or teachers, using foul language, and rebelling against authority. Second, delinquency that is harmful to oneself, such as smoking, alcohol consumption, promiscuity, and drug abuse. Third, delinquency that harms others, such as gang fights, theft, extortion, vandalism, and destruction of public facilities. Serious organised delinquency such as involvement in criminal gangs, drug trafficking, extortion, and sexual violence. This classification clarifies that juvenile delinquency has levels of

escalation. If not addressed early on, minor delinquency has the potential to develop into serious crime.

Based on the results of the discussion, Kartini Kartono's strategy is humane because it rejects harsh punishment and prioritises character building and moral rehabilitation of young people.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of a study conducted on Kartini Kartono's thoughts on tackling juvenile delinquency, it can be understood that juvenile delinquency is a multidimensional social problem that requires comprehensive handling. Kartini Kartono defines juvenile delinquency as deviant behaviour exhibited by individuals in their teenage years as a result of disrupted moral, social and emotional development. This behaviour arises as a consequence of adolescents' inability to adapt to the demands of their social environment and their weak self-control.

The results of the analysis of Kartini Kartono's concept show that the factors causing juvenile delinquency cannot be separated from the family environment, peer influence, education, and social conditions in the community. Families that fail to fulfil their primary educational role for children, particularly in terms of moral guidance, discipline, and affection, contribute significantly to the emergence of deviant behaviour. A permissive social environment

also provides opportunities for adolescents to become involved in various negative behaviours such as drug abuse, fighting, violations of social norms, and even criminal acts. In addition, an education system that is still cognitive in nature and pays little attention to character building has an impact on the weak moral values of adolescents. Economic factors and unstable social conditions also exacerbate the emergence of various forms of delinquency as compensation for powerlessness or a form of self-expression.

In her ideas, Kartini Kartono offers three strategic approaches to tackling juvenile delinquency, namely preventive, repressive and curative approaches. The preventive approach emphasises the importance of early prevention through moral education, character building, discipline training, and full attention from families and schools. The repressive approach is carried out through the enforcement of rules and the imposition of educational sanctions so that adolescents realise the consequences of their deviant behaviour. The curative approach focuses more on the process of guidance and rehabilitation for adolescents who have been involved in delinquency through psychological counselling, re-education, spiritual guidance, and social therapy so that they can return to functioning normally in society.

Therefore, based on the analysis that has been carried out, it can be asserted that Kartini

Kartono's thinking is still very relevant and applicable in the context of modern social life today. Tackling juvenile delinquency cannot be done partially, but must be carried out collaboratively, involving the active role of parents, schools, communities, religious leaders, social institutions, and the government. Integrated and sustainable efforts are expected to create a social environment conducive to the growth of moral, characterful, and responsible adolescents. With the application of the right concepts, addressing juvenile delinquency will not only touch on behavioural aspects, but also shape a productive young generation that can make a real contribution to national development.

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