

THE MEANING OF POPULARITY AMONG JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN DENPASAR

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1. Introduction

Being accepted by peer is very important for adolescents. Popularity gives sense of environmental mastery as well as happiness for adolescents, especially for those who search for self-identity. Popularity is often used as a tool to find friends or to get easily accepted in a peer group. Moreover, lack of peer acceptance will produce negative self-concept. Thus, adolescents do everything to make themselves popular. Unfortunately, some behaviors are unhealthy behaviors, for the example those that appreciate wealth and physical appearance as well social comparison that leads to jealousy. This research aims to discover the meaning of popularity among junior high school students in Denpasar. The result is expected to contribute in developing intervention program for adolescents, so that the ways that are done to become popular will be more positive.

2. Research Method

This research is a qualitative research using photovoice technique as data gathering. Photovoice was introduced by Wang & Burris and usually used as a tool to elicitate and communicate people feeling and thinking toward the research questions through photos. The research questions in this research are what is the meaning of popular, how it feels to be popular, and how it feels to be not popular. The respondents are 15 junior high school students in Denpasar. There are 10 girls and 5 boys, Balinese, and domicile in Denpasar. The respondents were given a briefing before they did the photovoice activity. The briefing consists of four topics which are introduction to photovoice, the steps of photovoice, how to write photo's caption, and research questions.

Data were analyzed using participatory and open coding using Strauss and Corbin approach. The research used multiple response approach, so that the respondents could give more than one responses in each research questions.

3. Results and Analysis

Based on data analysis, several themes related to research questions were obtained. In the question related to the popular meaning of junior high school students, there were five themes, namely being a role model, getting acceptance of friends, famous for certain behaviors, having achievements, and being attractive. Having achievement become the most frequent response.

Fig.1. Achievement and Popularity

Teenagers who are popular in my opinion is when a teenager becomes a champion in a competition. He is becoming popular because everyone will be known as a champion (AB, 12 years)



On the other hand, popularity can be achieved by negative behavior such as smoking cigarette and committed to criminal delinquency.

For junior high school students, being popular does not always cause positive feelings, but also presents negative feelings such as being uncomfortable, insulted, criticized, disliked by many who feel jealous of them, and also embarrassed.

Fig.2, The feeling of becoming popular

If we are popular, of course we will feel happy, be liked by many people, and surrounded by people who are happy about our presence, but by becoming popular we also feel that many do not like us because we are talked about by many people, insulted, criticized, and others - other. But still happy (IM, 12 years)



When junior high school students consider themselves unpopular, there are cognitive, affective, and conative experiences experienced by them. Cognitive refers to things that are thought out, affective relating to things that are felt, and conative in relation to the actions taken in relation to popularity.

Fig.3, The feeling of unpopular

Teenagers will think negatively of feeling sad, because they do not win, do things that are not good or negative (YN, 12 years)



4. Conclusion

Through photovoice, five meanings of popularity were found, namely being a role model, acceptance by friends, behavior related, achieving, and attractive appearance. Achievement becomes a popular meaning that most often appears in the respondent's answer. On the other hands, negative behavior is also an indicator of popularity in adolescents. When teens are popular, feelings that arise are not always positive feelings. Sometimes negative feelings arise because of being shunned, insulted, and criticized by friends. In adolescents, friend support becomes something very important so that when teenagers are popular, but not having friend support will reduce the level of youth happiness. When not popular, teens will think negatively of themselves, feel negative, and do bad things. On the other hand, not infrequently teenagers perceive and feel normal when they are not popular and are encouraged to do positive things and achieve achievements to become popular.

5. References

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