

The Role of the Community Environment in Addressing *Klitih* (Juvenile Delinquency) in Yogyakarta

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Abstract. *Klitih*, a local term in Yogyakarta, refers to juvenile delinquency. The present aimed to examine the role of the community environment in addressing *klitih* in Yogyakarta. The investigation employed a qualitative approach involving a case study method to gain insights into the environmental factors influencing youth delinquency prevention in Yogyakarta. The findings highlighted the crucial role played by families, communities, social institutions, and the government in mitigating the issue. The community environment played a pivotal role in curbing nighttime youth gatherings, which has been proven effective in reducing crime rates, particularly in the Yogyakarta region. The researcher identified a strategic approach for tackling juvenile delinquency in Yogyakarta. It could eventually serve as a valuable guideline for communities, emphasizing the significance of society and the environment in addressing juvenile delinquency in their surroundings. Additionally, it could encourage community involvement through training and practical measures related to coping strategies for *klitih* (juvenile delinquency) within crime-prone environments.

Keywords : Environment, Society, Juvenile Delinquency (*Klitih*)

1 Introduction

Juvenile delinquency, known as "*Klitih*" in Yogyakarta, is a pressing social issue that frequently manifests in this region. It encompasses various forms of misconduct, such as teenage brawls, drug abuse, theft, and other deviant behaviors [1]. This problem merits a significant concern due to its potential to disrupt order and security within the community. According to data provided by the Yogyakarta Special Region Regional Police, there were 1,369 reported cases of juvenile delinquency in Yogyakarta in 2020 [2]. The role of the community environment is paramount in addressing the challenge like *klitih* in Yogyakarta [3]. A healthy and supportive community environment can positively influence adolescent

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behavior [4]. Furthermore, a cohesive and nurturing society can play a pivotal role in preventing bullying through educational initiatives and active supervision of teenagers. However, recent years have witnessed significant transformations in the Yogyakarta community conditions. Urbanization and modernization have altered people's perspectives on life and the values they uphold [5]. These shifts have made people more individualistic, often resulting in decreased concern for others, particularly children and teenagers. Consequently, a concerted effort from various stakeholders is essential to enhance the role of the community environment in addressing *klitih* in Yogyakarta. Such endeavors can be facilitated through comprehensive education and outreach programs involving all segments of society, including parents, schools, social institutions, and the government. It is expected that by fostering a nurturing and supportive community environment, we can mitigate the prevalence of juvenile delinquency in Yogyakarta.

2 Objective

The primary objective of this research was to investigate the role of the community environment on addressing “*klitih*,” or juvenile delinquency, in Yogyakarta. Additionally, the researcher attempted to identify the factors influencing the community environment’s role in addressing *klitih*. The aim was to provide valuable insights for stakeholders, including government entities, social institutions, schools, and the general public, to facilitate the design of effective programs for addressing the issue in question in Yogyakarta. Furthermore, this research strived to advance theoretical knowledge concerning juvenile delinquency and the societal role in mitigating this matter.

3 Method

This research employed a qualitative approach utilizing the case study method. The approach was chosen to attain an in-depth understanding of the role of the community environment in addressing *klitih* in Yogyakarta [6]. The case study method was employed to investigate phenomena occurring in the field thoroughly [7]. Data collection involved in-depth interviews with key informants, including representatives from the government, social institutions, schools, and the general public who had experience and knowledge regarding *klitih* in Yogyakarta. Additionally, participatory observation provided a more comprehensive perspective on the community environment’s role in addressing *klitih*. Documentation techniques and literature studies were also incorporated to extend the data [8]. Subsequently, the collected data were qualitatively analyzed using thematic analysis techniques [9] to identify recurring themes from the interview results, observations, and documentation [6], allowing a deeper understanding of the community environment’s role in handling *klitih* in Yogyakarta. Data triangulation confirmed data validity by comparing interview results with other data sources such as documents, archives, and literature [10]. Furthermore, the use of participatory observation techniques could enhance the validity of comprehending the *klitih* mitigation within the community. Throughout this research, the researcher was committed to upholding ethical standards, including respecting the right to privacy, ensuring data confidentiality, and obtaining participant consent. The researcher also honored and considered the viewpoints and perspectives of participants to maintain the research's integrity.

4 Results and Discussion

Juvenile delinquency, known as *Klitih*, is a social problem that profoundly impacts various aspects of teenagers' lives, particularly in Yogyakarta. According to the data collected by

the researcher, Yogyakarta had witnessed numerous cases of juvenile delinquency stemming from factors such as parental neglect and the inadequacy of positive character guidance provided by educational institutions [11]. Additionally, addressing this issue requires government intervention through programs to prevent various forms of criminal behavior, including alcohol, tobacco, and drug misuse [12]. Over the period from January 2019 to March 2023, approximately 100 cases of juvenile delinquency involving excessive alcohol, tobacco, and drug use were reported in Yogyakarta [13]. Based on these occurrences, the researcher conducted a study to investigate the role of the community environment in mitigating this problem and addressing *klitih* simultaneously.

The present research results highlighted the crucial role of the community environment in addressing juvenile delinquency and crime in Yogyakarta. The following key findings were derived from interviews and participant observations:

The family plays a pivotal role in shaping the character and behavior of teenagers. A harmonious family environment that imparts positive moral values offers ample attention and provides proper supervision to help deter delinquent behavior [14]. Effective family dynamics significantly influence the behavior and values of teenagers. Families need to maintain open lines of communication, provide quality education, establish clear boundaries, and demonstrate healthy affection to reduce the prevalence of delinquency. Schools play a pivotal role in shaping adolescent behavior. They can impart character education, social skills, and positive values. In this regard, teachers and school staff are crucial in identifying and addressing adolescent conflicts. In the specific context of the Yogyakarta area, efforts undertaken by schools to enhance relationships among students, teachers, and parents could contribute significantly to conflict reduction.

Social institutions, including religious institutions, youth organizations, and other associations, could also overcome *klitih*. These institutions can offer education and promote moral values while creating opportunities for the younger generation to engage in positive activities [15].

Governments have a vital role in fostering a healthy and secure environment for the younger generation. Hence, they could support and allocate resources for programs to tackle *klitih* while formulating policies that facilitate such endeavors.

The discussion highlights that efforts to overcome *klitih* cannot be the sole responsibility of one party but necessitate collaboration among various stakeholders, including families, schools, social institutions, and the government. Moreover, handling *klitih* requires a holistic approach, encompassing psychological, social and, cultural dimensions.

5 Conclusion

Overcoming *klitih* (juvenile delinquency) in Yogyakarta requires an active role from the community. Families, schools, societies, and governments must collaborate to create an environment that supports the positive development of adolescents. In this endeavor, data is crucial for understanding the prevalence and factors that influence this issue. Correspondingly, the present research data revealed several factors associated with juvenile delinquency in Yogyakarta. With a better insight into these factors, more effective steps could be taken to address the issue and create a brighter future for the youth in Yogyakarta. Furthermore, the community environment is vital in preventing and addressing juvenile delinquency, such as *klitih*. A positive environment can positively influence teenagers, whereas a hostile environment can exacerbate their negative behaviors. Hence, the active involvement of society in creating a positive environment and supporting the development of the younger generation is of utmost importance.

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