

Respectful Attitude on Adolescents to Elderly

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Abstract

Purpose: Respect is an attitude that must be possessed by every teenager, because respect requires everyone to always appreciate and love one another. Unfortunately, the majority of adolescents today lack of respectful attitude toward older people, especially towards the elderly. The purpose of this study is to find out and describe the attitude of respect for adolescents towards the elderly.

Methods: This research is a descriptive qualitative research. Data collection techniques in this study used an open questionnaire and involved 105 adolescents aged 13 to 18 years old who came from five schools, namely private, regular, and public private schools in the Surakarta region. Then the data analysis used is interactive analysis.

Results: The results showed that respect for adolescents towards the elderly can be seen from three forms of attitude, namely: 1) how to communicate; 2) posture; and 3) prosocial behavior. Factors that influence respect for adolescents towards the elderly are divided into personal factors and situational factors. Personal factors (within) include emotional factors of each different individual, adolescents will be respectful when they are able to control the feelings / emotions that are being felt. Whereas situational factors (from outside) include environmental or cultural factors and influences from others that are considered important.

Value: Therefore, it is very important for policy makers to be able to help foster respect for adolescents through strengthening these factors.

Keywords: respect, adolescents, elderly

INTRODUCTION SECTION

Teenage life is a transitive stage from a child life into an adult life, in this stage; teenagers experience physical and psychological change (Damayanti & Jatningsih, 2014). According to Hurlock (in Hidayati & Farid, 2016) teenage life has many characteristics. There are physical and mental development and value, interest, and attitude changing. One of the attitudes changing in this stage is respectful attitude toward older people.

Respectful attitude must be had by all of teenagers, because this attitude demands every people to respect others. Respectful attitude is important because it can build an order in life and be able to increase the degree of someone (students) in the presence of their environment (Faridah, 2015). The definition of respectful attitude according to (Wulandarizqy, 2015) is how someone should treat other people well, as well as adolescents respect elderly and either do the elderly. (Crozier, 2016) also explains that when respectful attitude is applied directly in our daily life, it can rise the respectful attitude and it can make someone avoids saying something bad. When respectful attitude is applied directly in our daily life, it can rise the respectful attitude and it can make someone avoids saying something bad. Respectful attitude has eight characteristics namely honorific, appreciation, reverence, hospitality, harmony, politeness, etiquette, and manner (Suwarna & Suharti, 2014).

Respectful attitude cannot be separated from surrounding culture which is exist. According to (North & Fiske, 2015), Eastern Culture is expected teenagers always respect to the elderly people, and this attitude can caused respectful feeling from other people. Javanese teenagers, especially

Central Java, should pay attention and understand how to respect others and they should apply that attitude in their daily life. From that attitude, Javanese people can maintain their culture (Wardani & Uyun, 2017).

Respectful attitude that Javanese people still maintain is shown from the people who always say hello and give smile to others. They also take a bow to elderly even they do not know who they are. In this era, respectful attitude is faded, moreover, many people don't have respectful attitude toward others and elderly people (Prasetya, 2018). Look at the teenagers' condition right now, many of the teenagers lose the respectful attitude towards elderly people. Majority, many of the teenagers discriminate elderly people. Many of the teenagers have less knowledge about elderly so it makes them have bad stereotype toward elderly (Ragan & Bowen in Helmes, 2015).

The definition of elderly people according to UU Number: 13 1998 which is about elderly prosperity in article 1 section 2. It is written that elderly person is someone who is 60 years old or more (Suardiman, 2011). Basically, elderly people need social support from others. That thing is really crucial because it can make peaceful life. It can help elderly people still do their activity and it is good for their healthy. Specifically, strong social support makes elderly people easier to get healthy in cognitive, physical, and emotional. On the other hand, other positive influence from this support is family. The attitude that is needed is caring the sick family member and helping elderly people in their adaptation of life which full of stress. One of the social supports can be shown with respecting elderly people (Tumipa, Bidjuni, & Lolong, 2017).

Unfortunately, that condition is different with the recent condition. Many phenomenon in Indonesia show that respectful attitude toward elderly is ignored by the teenagers. The research which has done by (Wardani & Uyun, 2017), they did interview toward 6 Javanese teenagers aged 13 until 23 years old. The results of the interview shows that the subjects know how to apply the respectful attitude toward elderly, but there are many factors which influences the subjects to disrespect elderly. There is subject which believes that respecting the elderly is not an important thing.

The other research that discusses about respectful attitude is also done by (Damayanti & Jatningsih, 2014). They figured out that there is the difference between village teenagers and city teenagers. Village teenagers show their respectful attitude more often than city teenagers. This condition is influenced by their different backgrounds. Village is more open and communication always happens even it is only a say hello, on the other hand, in a city, communication only happens when they have something to be done, so they need to meet each other to solve the problem.

That thing is match with the result of the interview which had done by the researchers toward a teenager who comes from Surakarta. She is 19 years old. This research was done in 12 December 2018. The result of the interview shows that the subject respect elderly, especially to her grandma and grandpa, but the subject doesn't respect other elderly. She said that one of the reason is she doesn't know the elderly, so that, she doesn't need to respect the strange elderly. The subject also doesn't have a habit to say hello to the strange elderly.

Based on the phenomena above, we can conclude that teenagers in this era show disrespectful attitude more often. According to Bryant et al (in Luchesi et al., 2017) said, if the elderly receive high attention and affection it will have a good impact on attitudes, health outcomes, and influence on the behavior of the elderly. Because of that we need a research which can figure out how the respectful attitude toward elderly people and what are factors that influence the teenagers' respectful attitude toward the elderly.

METHODS

This research is a descriptive qualitative research. It is a methodology which uses to describe a research symptom. The informants or the participants of this research are chosen by purposive sampling technique by deciding informants criterion which are decided based on the research purpose. The criterion which are used in this research are: a). Teenagers aged 13 until 18, b). Minimally, have one family member who is elder people, c). Willing to be informants for this research by the existing of informed consent, d). Living in Surakarta, and e). Javanese People. There are 105 informants which are suitable with the criterion which have decided.

The data collecting technique of this research is opened questionnaire which has 11 questions. The data collecting process uses opened questionnaire which present many questions which don't have any choice of questions, so that, the informants can give a free answers. The data analysis technique of this research is collecting the data, doing reduction by coding and categorizing the data, doing display, and the data is analyzed descriptively.

RESULTS

This research want to understand about how is the respectful attitude toward elderly people, so that, from the result of this research we can know about the forms of the respectful attitude of teenagers toward the elderly people. We also can know about what are the factors that can influence the respectful attitude of teenagers toward the elderly people.

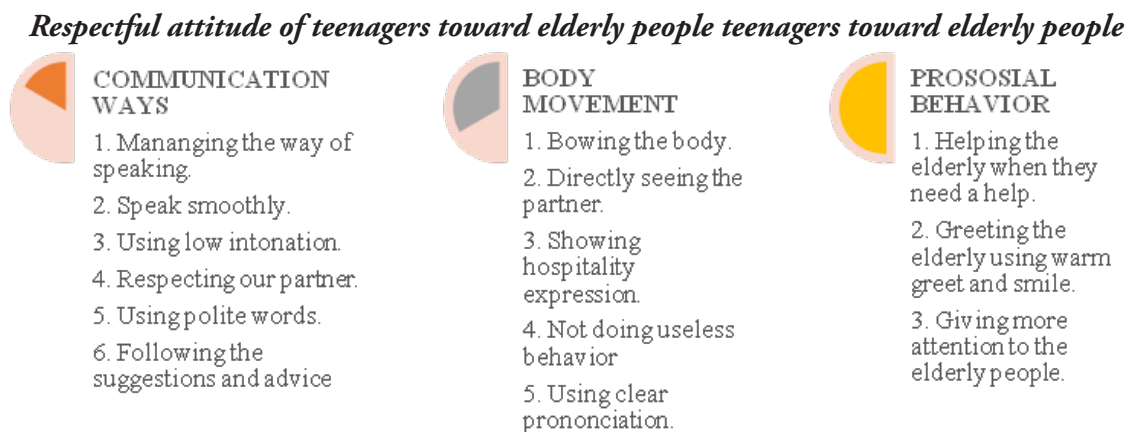


Figure 1. Respectful Attitude of Teenagers toward Elderly People

Communication ways

The respectful attitude of teenagers towards the elderly people can be seen from the communication way which is done in the family circumstances or outside of that. The teenagers manage their way to talk, they talk smoothly by not using the high tone, they respect their partner, they don't break the advice, and they don't use rude words in speaking with the elderly.

Most of the respondents said that when they talk to the elderly, the respondents will manage their way of speak and speak smoother so they will be respected also. That thing is suitable with many characteristics of respect according to (Suwarna & Suharti, 2014) which are honorific, politeness, and manner. Honorific is an attitude of respecting elderly people from the behavior when they speak and the language that is used. The politeness which is meant is a good attitude or

etiquette that is used when they meet other people especially the elderly. Then, the etiquette that is meant is placing our partner is higher than us, so we can keep their position.

The other form of respectful attitude is shown by not using the high tone when we talk with the elderly people. Based on the result of this research, most of the respondents have spoken with high tone to the elderly, but in this case, the respondents don't have any negative connotations. They do those things because the elderly people don't have a good listening ability. Because of those conditions, the respondents must talk louder using the high tone, so the elderly people can hear that.

That result is match with the characteristic of respect according to (Mu'in, 2015). The characteristics are tolerance and acceptance. The definition of tolerance is an attitude of respecting other people who have different opinion with us, those differences don't make each individual mock each other but respect others' opinion. The next is acceptance. It is an attitude of accepting other people because they have the same purpose with us. The further explanation of tolerance and acceptance is respondents still respect the elderly even they have different ability in hearing or listening something. The respondents also accept this condition in order to maintain the communication with the elderly.

The other respectful attitude which is shown from the communication ways is not saying many bad words when talking to the elderly. (Crozier, 2016) said that when someone applies the respectful attitude directly in their daily life, they can rise the respectful attitude from other people to respect them. One of the examples of respectful attitude which should be applied is avoiding using the bad words. The next characteristic of respect according of (Mu'in, 2015) is non- violence (no violence). It is an attitude of not using physical and psychological violence by using many bad words which are usually used to say hate and dislike. It is also proved that 87% of the respondents never use bad words to talk with the elderly.

Based on many of communication ways, respondents think that they have respected the elderly when they talk to them because they have applied those ways of communication. Even many of the respondents have said that they have respected the elderly, but when we ask further and specifically, many of the respondents still show that they haven't respected the elderly 100%. Based on the result, 57% of the respondents have broken the advice that is given by their elderly. Their reason of doing that is because there is difference opinion between the teenagers and the elderly people, emotion, the feeling of doesn't want to hear any suggestions and the feeling of don't want to be compared with others.

The result above is same with one of the disrespectful attitude toward the elderly according to (Hafidh, 2010). Hafidh studied the students of academic year 2010 who don't listen the elderly when they are given the suggestion. They don't listen and sometimes they break the suggestion in the middle. If it is compare with the students in 1990, they managed their attitude when they were listening to the suggestion which was given. Many changes which have said above reflect the teenagers' and students' attitude is decreasing.

Other research conducted by (Sun & Shek, 2012) states that the most unfavorable behavior of students which is most common is not respecting the teacher, speaking disrespectfully, and disrupting teaching and learning activities. Many changes which have said above reflect the teenagers' and students' attitude is decreasing. Then, (Sarwono, 2006) said that it can be caused by one of the steps of teenagers' development. In this stage, teenagers don't want to be restrained and they want to be free in doing something, so that, it can caused the teenagers break the advice or suggestion to show the feeling of disliking of the limitation.

Body movement

Respectful attitude of teenagers can be seen from the body movements which are used when they talk to the elderly people. Based on the result which have collected, the respondents manage their body position in order to be polite in front of the elderly people who they talk with. The behaviour that is shown by the respondents like bowing their body, sitting beside the elderly, not freely doing anything, using clear pronunciation, directly seeing the eyes, talking smoothly, and using low tone. Those things also relevant with the opinion from (Mu'in, 2015) about one of the characteristic of respectful attitude. Those things are good attitude which are usually used by the teenagers to the elderly in purpose to show that they want to respect the elderly.

Prosocial behavior

Respectful attitude of teenagers also can be seen from the prosocial behaviour which they show to the elderly people. The bahaviour that is shown is the way the teenagers say hallo or greet the elderly people. Based on the all of the answers, most of the respondents will greet the elderly people when they meet them in the street. That neaviour is relevant with one of the characteristic of respectful attitude according to (Suwarna & Suharti, 2014), when the teenagers greet the other use the warm greetings while they also give a smile, they use the good language and the good bahaviour.

The other prosocial behaviour which is shown by the teenagers when they meet with the eldrly peole is helping the elderly and they ask the other people near of the place to help the elderly also. The other behaviour that shows respectful attitude toward the eldrly is helping them when the teenagers are not in hurry, but when the teenagers don't have intention to help them, they will do nothing. This behaviour is related with (Mu'in, 2015) opinion which state that one of the characteristic of respectful attitude is named concerned which is an atitude given to respected people.

Supported factors which influence teenagers' respectful attitude toward the elderly



Figure 2. Supported Factors Which Influence Teenagers' Respectful Attitude toward The Elderly.

The internal factor (inside), one of the examples of this factor is emotion. That thing is suitable with the research has done by (Damayanti & Jatiningasih, 2014) which says that teenage life is a process of finding their identity. In this living stage, it can influence the teenagers' emotion. The second factor is situational factors (Outside) which are environment, culture, and the other's point of view about something. Other's point of view in here is their parents' and family's opinion.

According to(Walgito, 2016) states that one of the factor which influences the respectful attitude toward others is because there is imitating process which happens in family circumstances. (Sabarni & Hidajat, 2018) also believes that the application of the basics regarding adolescent moral values and ethics must start from the family scope.

It is relevant with the research result which states that most of the respondents use Indonesia Language and it is supported by research has done by (Hidayat, 2016) which state that modern Javanese children are rarely use *krama* when communicating with the elderly people. Since they were children, they usually use Indonesian Language, so they never know the right grammar when they are talking with others. They never use *krama* in communicating with their parents, moreover with other people who they never know before. Moreover, the city people who live in the city, they tend to use Indonesian for daily communication. Compare with the teenagers who live in the village, they still use Javanese language even some of them also has been influenced by the other culture. According to (Walgito, 2016), he says that environment or culture where someone lives in has big influence in forming the respectful attitude toward others. Specific attitude will appear when there is maintenance from the society.

CONCLUSION

Based on all of the explanation above, we can conclude that respectful attitude of teenagers toward the elderly can be seen from 3 components; they are the way of communication, body movement, and prosocial behavior. Respectful attitude which is shown from the way of communication of the teenagers when they interact with the elderly is by managing the way they communicate, speak slowly, and not using high intonation and tone, respecting the partner, using Indonesian Language and Javanese Language, not breaking the suggestion, and not using many bad words.

The body movement is showed by bowing their body, seeing the eyes of their partner directly, showing hospitality expression, and using clear pronunciation when they talk to the elderly people. The last form of showing the respectful attitude is by using prosocial behavior which is shown by always helping the elderly who need their help, greeting the elderly when they should meet, and giving more attention toward the elderly.

The factors which can influence the respectful attitude can be divided into 2, they are personal factor and situational factor. The personal factor (inside) can be an emotional factor which is different. Teenagers will respect the elderly when they can manage their feeling. Beside, the situational factor (outside) can be environment, culture, and other people' belief (parents' belief). Those factors really influence the respectful attitude developing of the teenagers toward the elderly people, because in this stage, there is an imitating process where the teenagers will duplicate the behavior which always happens in their daily life.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you to the supervisor and all the subjects who helped fill out the questionnaire, as well as all my family and friends who always supported me.

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