

# The Influence of Social Support on Student Discipline

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## Abstract

Social support is very important and it affects the discipline of a student so as to cause the occurrence of negative behavior problems and cause criminal cases in society. This article aims to give an overview on the importance of social support to the discipline of vocational college students and the objective to be achieved through this study is to identify the disciplinary problems of vocational college students and identify the social support involved in affecting the discipline of vocational college students. This article is a review paper in approaches information seeking on social support in disciplines including government report data, proceedings, journals and electronic references. The results of this study have found that one of the main factor that cause disciplinary problems is due to lack of social support. The highest case of discipline among vocational college students is the problem of skipping classes. The effect of lack of social supports among students lead to negative behavior which eventually leading to various disciplinary problem. Social supports is crucial for student as it helps to shape personal characteristic especially at this age, students often in the process of discovering their self-identity.

**Keywords:** Social Support, Influence of Social Support, Vocational College, Parental Support, Peer Support, Vocational College Lecturer Support

## Introduction

The social support provided is in the form of emotions, guidance or material, such support can help shape adaptation in the environment and improve well-being. Aspinwall and Taylor (1993) explained that a high optimistic attitude in relation to social support will be able to increase adolescent happiness. This is because, the optimistic attitude practiced can be an attraction to the formation of social relationships and get the necessary form of social support. Mahirah & Balan (2018) mentioned in their study that weak social support can cause various problems to adolescents. Weak social support habits can influence a teenager's behaviour. Adolescents will often be affected by emotional changes such as feelings of

inferiority, loneliness, boredom and so on. Feelings of inferiority can have a detrimental effect on adolescents. Adolescents will be quiet, do not like to socialize, easily offended, low motivated and can also cause negative behaviour (Tan & Rosnah, 2013). There is a theory that is seen in relation to social support, namely the theory of relationship regulation introduced by (Lakey and Orehek, 2011). This theory has explained that social support given consistently can be linked with good mental health. According to this theory, the main effect of good mental health is when individuals can regulate feelings, thoughts and behaviors through effective conversations and activities done together (Ghazali et al., 2019). The objective of the study to be achieved through this study is to identify the disciplinary problems of vocational college students and identify the social support involved in affecting the discipline of vocational college students

This article aims to give an overview on the importance of social support to the discipline of vocational college students. The objective of the study to be achieved through this study is to identify the disciplinary problems of vocational college students and identify the social support involved in affecting the discipline of vocational college students. Through document analysis techniques, various documents were used to obtain general ideas and perspectives in this study. According to Bowen (2009), this document analysis technique involves three phases namely observation (initial examination), reading (thorough examination) and interpretation so that the findings can be analyzed and summarized in a comprehensive way.

### **Methodology**

This article employed a review paper approach with the search for information on social support and discipline of vocational college students including data from government reports, journals and electronic references.

For this systematic literature review, six databases were used, namely SCOPUS, ScienceDirect, ERIC, Taylor & Francis, Web of Science, and Springer. The databases were browsed using a combination of different search terms namely “social support, influence of social support, student discipline, adolescent behavior, and technical and vocational education” resulting in a total of 7325 articles. Identical articles were removed and the data set was reduced using eligibility criteria. The additional inclusion criteria were used: (1) study done in Malaysia, (2) article published between 2009 and 2020 and (3) investigate effect of social support on students’ discipline. We excluded studies with topics on gender or developmental issues. After using the eligibility criteria, only 36 articles were chosen as the samples for the study. Three government reports from Technical and Vocational Training Education Division were also included. Through document analysis techniques, various documents were used to obtain general ideas and perspectives in this study. According to Bowen (2009), this document analysis technique involves three phases namely observation (initial examination), reading (thorough examination) and interpretation so that the findings can be analyzed and summarized in a comprehensive way.

### **The Way Forward**

The objective of this paper review is mainly to identify in details regarding different types of social supports as well as types of student discipline in the setting of vocational college. From the research analysis conducted, it is evident that there is a correlation between social support and student discipline. This research has demonstrated how social supports have an impact on student discipline, however the question of whether social supports would

have similar impact towards student's motivation on academic achievement is still open for further discussion. Therefore, it is highly pivotal if future article analysis could illustrate the relationship of social supports in determining both intrinsic and extrinsic motivation, hence their impact on student's academic achievement. This would provide us information and further understanding on the importance of social supports from the aspect of students' motivation. Students' motivation is regarded as one of the critical element in determining their future academic success as well as their behavioral control.

### **Student Discipline**

Discipline is generally a summary of training that forms, corrects or completes a system of rules related to behaviour that is in accordance with the rules - rules that have been established and that have been set. At the school level, discipline is a rule that will be imposed on students who aim to control their behaviour through punishment or reward. According to Muhamad & Rashid (2017), disciplinary behaviour also means 'a person's willingness to work or do something adequately order, the willingness to respect the rights of other individuals, the willingness to practice good behavior and not to interfere with the behavior of others, the willingness to respect each other. This means that disciplined people will not experience social problems (Ali, 2007). Discipline problems can also be equated with student misconduct, related to moral collapse and so on. This problem of discipline is so synonymous with teenagers or school students who are experiencing the process towards adulthood (Hehsan & Muhamad, 2010).

The Ministry of Education has also set a New Guideline related to the Education Regulations: Student Discipline (1998) which refers to disciplinary problems such as crime, personal hygiene, skipping, rudeness, neglect of time, damage to property, dishonesty and obscene behavior . In the context of school disciplinary laws and regulations in Malaysia, it has been practiced according to the three main references namely: i. Education (School Discipline) Regulations 1959, which are rules made based on the powers given by section 116, Education Ordinance 1957. ii. Discipline management handbooks published by the Ministry of Education Malaysia. iii. Professional Circular Letters issued by the Ministry of Education Malaysia periodically (Khairudin et al., 2019). The Ministry of Education Malaysia (MOE) has also implemented and gazetted several rules and regulations in education aimed at producing a quality education system to create a personal balance among students. According to Hussein (1996), he agrees with this statement through his view that the main goal for the formulation of a rule in education is to lead students towards the formation of intellectual personalities in addition to physical balance, emotions and spiritual strength (Hamzah et al., 2018). The Ministry of Education Malaysia (MOE) has also set up several committees to overcome this disciplinary problem at the national level (Ishak et al., 2017). This disciplinary problem seems so serious because the data support obtained and the incidents that occur very clearly show that the disciplinary performance of Vocational college students is at a critical level, below is included information on student error data according to the contract:

### **Criminal Behavior**

According to 2017, there are 9 cases in all vocational colleges, for 2018, cases increased sharply to 42 cases and decreased slightly in 2019 by 29 cases. Abas (1998) in Meng (2007) have defined that crime is an offence committed by a person with the intention of committing the offence, then because of that offence, the person in charge can be punished with a just retribution for doing things that are wrong under the law (Malek & Kamil, 2010). Items of

criminal offences include disciplinary problems such as crime such as threatening / hitting / injuring lecturers, threatening / hitting / injuring students, fighting and stealing (Technical and Vocational Training Education Division, 2019).

### **Bully**

The statistics of bullying cases in 2017 were 3 cases, for 2018 the number of cases increased by 43 cases and for the year 2019 increased by 63 cases. Items for bullying are such as physical bullying, language bullying, signal bullying and relationship bullying (Technical and Vocational Training Education Division, 2019). This bullying that occurs among students can have an impact that can affect health such as having problems in eating habits and weight. According to Farrow & Fox (2010), these can cause physical injury, permanent injury including death, isolation from socialization, affect quality academic, and face problems in building socialization relationships with the school community, as well as can cause mental health problems (Hassan et al., 2016).

### **Cigarette**

Cigarette related cases in 2017 were 331, in 2018 decreased slightly by 311, in 2019 increased by 444. Items under this cigarette case include owning and storing, selling and distributing, supplying and offering and smoking cigarettes (Technical and Vocational Training Education Division, 2019). The Ministry of Health Malaysia (MOH) has proven that the number of smokers among the people of developing countries such as Malaysia is increasing every year even though various campaigns that have been implemented such as non-smoking campaigns. Smokers aged 15 and over increased from 21% in 1995 to 31% in 2000. According to social learning theory, many behaviours, such as smoking, are learned through observation. Individuals, like peers, who have the same structure in adolescence, influencing adolescent behavior as a supporter and by consciously or unconsciously reinforcing certain behaviours (Mahmood, 2018).

### **Skippping Related Cases**

Skippping related cases are the highest cases in 2017 of 2171 cases, for 2018 increased by 2222 cases and continue to increase for 2019 which is 3155. The items for these skipping cases include skipping assembly, skipping co-curricular activities, skipping hostels, skipping classes, skipping official school events and skipping school (Technical and Vocational Training Education Division, 2019). The problem of truancy will have a negative impact on oneself, religion, race, country, society, family and the future of the students themselves. Young people are the assets of the country where they will be the backbone of the country's leadership in the future. Therefore, it has become a must to ensure that these young people can be formed to have an excellent level of intellect and personality in order to benefit the country in the future (Nor & Junus, 2012).

### **Obscene Behavior**

Cases for 2017 are 35 cases, for 2017 has decreased by 28 cases and for 2019 has increased by 40 cases. Items for pornographic behaviour such as using obscene words / actions, both of which arouse suspicion, embracing other students of the same sex, drawing and writing obscene words and pictures, flirting and khalwat (Technical and Vocational Training Education Division, 2019). The use of the internet is often reported as one of the most common sources of exposure to pornography through adolescents' access to websites

that explicitly provide sexual activity. This situation invites the concerns of all parties, especially parents. Ybarra and Mitchell (2005) have found that online and offline pornographic searches were more likely among men than women (5%). In addition, they also found that 87% of adolescents are in the age group of 14 years and above that is around puberty (Fang & Subhi, 2017).

### **Disrespectful Behavior**

The case for this rude behavior for 2017 is 97 cases, for 2018 it increased by 158 cases and in 2019 it decreased by 114 cases. The items for this rude behavior construct are as rude to teachers, rude to staff, abusive / rude language to students, disobeying teacher instructions, drinking / buying / storing / distributing intoxicating beverages (Technical and Vocational Training Education Division, 2019). Yunus (2008) explains that educational practices and processes that contribute towards the formation of values in the younger generation are declining. Education today is too focused on academic success which causes affective education to be neglected (Othman & Roslan, 2015).

### **Vandalism**

Cases related to vandalism in 2017 were 2 cases while for 2018 there were 2 cases and for 2019 has increased by 18 cases. Items for this vandalism case include scratching the walls of dormitory buildings, damaging school property, damaging the vehicles of directors / lecturers / staff and damaging hostel property (Technical and Vocational Training Education Division, 2019). Vandalism is an unhealthy social symptom that is synonymous among students at school. In school, vandalism is seen as a way to vent anger or simply to get rid of boredom. Although basically, this vandalism is considered mild, but if left unchecked, it will become a cancer in the social structure of society. If the symptoms of this vandalism cannot be curbed, the country will surely face a socially troubled young generation. Apart from that, the public and the government have to bear huge losses as a result of the symptoms of vandalism (Husin et al., 2020)

### **Unreliable Behavior**

The case statistics in 2017 were 59 cases, but increased in 2018 by 76 cases and continued to increase in 2019 by 18 cases. Items under this construct include lying, irresponsible, dishonest, and breach of trust (Technical and Vocational Training Education Division, 2019). Professional ethics and morals are fundamental to the formation of integrity. This trait has an effect on every individual especially those who work. Ethics refers to the set of values and morals that are the standard for the behavior of individuals, organizations and professions (Abbas et.al., 2014 ).

### **Mischief**

For delinquency cases, the number of cases for 2017 is 31 cases and increased in 2018 by 166 cases and increased again in 2019 by 374 cases. Items under this delinquency construct include delinquency cases such as carrying / playing firecrackers, riding motorcycles in school grounds, interfering during teaching and learning, violating hostel rules, modifying electrical wiring, leaving school / dormitory areas without permission (Technical and Vocational Training Education Division, 2019). Ghafani (2007) has explained that juvenile delinquency (deviant behavior) refers to the actions and activities of adolescents that are contrary to the norms of society, national law and religion. The actions of teenagers can be said to be naughty

because teenagers are considered immature, immature and the criminal acts they commit are not punished severely. The punishment imposed on them is that the teenager is placed in moral rehabilitation centers and given special education (Yahaya & Hamzah, 2012).

### **It Does Not Matter the Time**

For cases that do not matter the time in 2017 is 583 cases in 2018 cases decreased to 452 and increased again in 2019 by 501. While the items under this construct are late to class, late to school, late to assembly, late to arrive extracurricular / co-curricular activities and late entry / return of hostels (Technical and Vocational Training Education Division, 2019). This negative behavior in society that will not benefit the strength of the system and economic structure practiced by a society, community or country instead causes the destruction of a society, community and country (Sharif & Mohamad, 2011)

### **Personal Hygiene**

Cases related to personal hygiene in 2017, a total of 119 cases occurred while in 2018 cases increased to 200 cases and in 2019 cases continued to increase to 556 cases. Cases involving personal hygiene such as long hair, wearing irregular clothing, shaving eyebrows, wearing makeup, fashionable hair coloring nails / henna, wearing jewelry, mustache / beard and tattooing (Technical and Vocational Training Education Division, 2019).

### **Special Cases**

Special cases are relatively heavy cases in vocational colleges in 2017 the number of cases of 22 cases in 2018 cases increased by 35 cases and in 2019 cases decreased by 27 cases. Special cases consist of pregnancy, possession / storage of drug / inhalant-related materials, poison abuse, smoking / injecting / inhaling / drinking / sniffing drug / inhalant-related substances and running away from home (Technical and Vocational Training Education Division, 2019). Discipline problems among students are a common occurrence in the world of education. Even so, the problem of discipline should not be taken lightly because the school is where the teaching and learning process takes place and requires a conducive environment so that the effectiveness of both processes can be successfully utilized by students (Zainal & Hassan, 2009).

### **Social Support**

This social support means an experience related to appreciation, attention, love, (Gurung, 2006). Social support can also contribute to positive development among individuals (Azmi et al., 2016). Teenagers always need social support from parents, teachers, friends, classmates and people around them in helping them cope with the twists and turns of life. Such support is able to provide protection and improvement of adolescent health through the psychological life of adolescents when adolescents experience conflict disorders in life indirectly student discipline will be controlled as a result of social support. In fact, it can provide an increase in self-esteem, values and self-confidence as well as well-being in life (Zakaria et al., 2019). Cobb (1976) describes social support as a set of beliefs and beliefs by individual to other individuals to receive support either in the form of care, affection, respect, appreciation or acceptance of obligations jointly. It can be summarised as social support is a form of interaction or reciprocal relationship in a social network that involves emotional, information and material aspects with the aim of bringing convenience, comfort and satisfaction to the parties involved. For example, individuals who need one form of social



support will feel relieved and relieved of the burden while individuals who provide support seem to be satisfied because they can help. (Panatik et al., 2020).

Social support is needed especially when they are in trouble and need close people to hear their problems. Furthermore, a study conducted by Nabavi and Bijandi (2018) have found that the intensity of social support is the strongest predictor of life satisfaction (Arshat & Japara, 2018). Every teenager needs social support from parents, teachers, friends, classmates and people around him to help them deal with the twists and turns of life. This support is able to provide protection and improvement of adolescent health through the psychological life of adolescents when adolescents experience conflict disorders in life. In fact, it can provide an increase in self-esteem, values and self-confidence as well as well-being in life (Tan & Rosnah, 2013). Social support is defined as the existence of people who tell other individuals that they care, appreciate and love it (Sarason et al., 1983). The reality is that social support can help individuals to cope with health problems better, increase their sense of belonging, goals and self-esteem and stimulate positive mental health (Nawi et al., 2017).

### **Parental Social Support**

Parents are the closest individuals to their children and from them onwards, the personal development of the children will be patterned from birth to adulthood through their upbringing (Hamid et. al., 2011). Such care will be expanded and strengthened in association either in schools or other institutions as emphasized by (Kulop, 1993; Ismail et al., 2013). A parent or guardian is someone who plays a very important role in the formation and control of their children's discipline. Informally, these children receive early education at home from their parents. That is why the child is likened to a clean white cloth, then the parents are the ones who greatly influence the formation of his personality. In fact, children spend more time with family than at school (Lian et al., 2005).

### **Peer Social Support**

Peers are defined as a group of identical or similar individuals, who often have the same age, gender or socio-economic status as well as share similar interests. Peers from a social point of view is a group of society that is unique, complete with rules, has a certain role and expectations (Sidik, 2019). Peers are considered family successors and are a mechanism of transition from childhood to youth and adulthood. The role of peers according to Suzana (2008) includes: 1) a place to make a reference; 2) identity search; 3) influence tendencies and ideals; 4) make assessments and strengthen one's own values; 5) peer counselors; 6) behavioral reinforcement; 7) a place to try roles and solve problems; 8) opportunities to be a leader; 9) a place to try new roles; and 10) share experiences and opportunities to interact and understand different genders (Hamzah et al., 2013). There is a study conducted by a group of researchers from Universiti Putra Malaysia has found that the peer factor is one of the important factors that can cause adolescents to fall into social misconduct. Similarly, the influence on the problem of cigarette, drug and alcohol addiction among adolescents also has the influence of peers, parents and the environment. In this regard, the discussion on the discussion of the influence of peers on the formation of personality or student behaviour focuses a lot on the negative influence, but the fact that peers are the closest group in the lives of adolescents themselves and should be given due consideration in designing programs to enable peers to make a positive contribution to the formation of personality and morals among them (Stapa et al., 2012).

### Lecturer Social Support

Teachers and parents are the main motivators for students to achieve lessons and to form a better personality. without support from teachers and parents, it is difficult for a student to succeed, parents and teachers are the first to educate teenagers especially from a personal point of view. Attention given by parents and teachers is a process of student learning so that dropouts and personality problems among students can be overcome. Nasir et al (2016); Tas (2016) has conducted a study and found that students who feel like they are given attention by science teachers and help them when faced with problems, will have a positive and significant relationship with student involvement from cognitive, behavioral, affective and argentic aspects (Ayub et al., 2018).

### Conclusion

Vocational colleges not only need to produce employees who are skilled in meeting the job market but also need to look from the aspect of student discipline so that students who leave the vocational college are graduates who are not only skilled in the field they are involved in but have a good personality and discipline development and prosperity of the country. If students do not have emphasis on the affective aspect, the implications are huge because it can cause a generation to change their behaviour to negative behaviour that likes to do damage or commit crimes or crimes.

Parents, teachers and students need to be skilled in providing social support to vocational college students in order to form good discipline. Parents, teachers and vocational college students need to know the importance of giving and receiving this social support. They need to understand the good benefits of this social support and need to be good practices to form a society that has a positive network among them. Here, the researcher would like to suggest for future analysis of articles related to social support in shaping student motivation both in terms of external or extrinsic motivation or internal or intrinsic motivation.

Based on Bronfenbrenner's ecological system theory (1977), individual's development primarily shaped by the interactions and relationships between the individual and different layers of surroundings. In the context vocational college students, relationship and interaction with parents, fellow peers and lecturers constitute a fundamental social support which shape their attitudes and behaviour. All the three main social supports that have been discussed earlier have significant impact and influence on development of discipline in vocational college student.

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