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Parental Attachment and Maladaptive Behavior in Children with Emotional and Behavioral Disorders

Sri Nurhayati Selian[1*], Lisdayani[2], Nur Hasmalawati [3]
[1,2,3]Fakultas Psikologi, Universitas Muhammadiyah Aceh, Banda Aceh
e-mail: [1*]**seliansrinurhayati@gmail.com**

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Abstract. *Children with emotional and behavioral disorders (EBD) often display maladaptive behavior that deviates from social norms. This study analyzes the relationship between parental attachment and maladaptive behavior among children with EBD at the Banda Aceh Special Child Development Institution (LPKA). A qualitative case study was conducted through in-depth interviews with 55 purposively selected children, supported by observation and document review. Thematic analysis showed that 81.8% of the children came from economically disadvantaged families and 58.2% experienced disharmonious parenting marked by chronic conflict, broken homes, and emotional neglect. Insecure attachment was dominant: 58.2% felt misunderstood by their families and 40% sought support from non-parental figures. The main legal case was sexual relations reported as rape (45.5%), followed by property crime. Maladaptive behavior reflects dysfunction in attachment and family systems, indicating the need for attachment-focused rehabilitation, economic support, and restorative approaches.*
Keywords: *developmental psychology, parental attachment, parenting*

Abstrak. Anak-anak dengan gangguan emosional dan perilaku (EBD) sering kali menunjukkan perilaku maladaptif yang menyimpang dari norma sosial. Penelitian ini menganalisis hubungan antara kelekatan dengan orang tua dan perilaku maladaptif pada anak-anak dengan EBD di Lembaga Pembinaan Khusus Anak (LPKA) Banda Aceh. Studi kasus kualitatif dilakukan melalui wawancara mendalam dengan 55 anak yang dipilih secara purposif, serta didukung oleh observasi dan telaah dokumen. Analisis tematik menunjukkan bahwa 81,8% anak berasal dari keluarga kurang mampu secara ekonomi dan 58,2% mengalami pola asuh yang tidak harmonis, yang ditandai dengan konflik kronis, keluarga yang tidak utuh (*broken home*), dan pengabaian emosional. Kelekatan tidak aman menjadi pola yang dominan: 58,2% merasa tidak dipahami oleh keluarga mereka dan 40% mencari dukungan dari sosok di luar orang tua. Kasus hukum utama yang dihadapi adalah hubungan seksual yang dilaporkan sebagai pemerkosaan (45,5%), diikuti oleh tindak pidana terhadap harta benda. Perilaku maladaptif mencerminkan disfungsi dalam sistem kelekatan dan keluarga, yang mengindikasikan perlunya rehabilitasi yang berfokus pada kelekatan, dukungan ekonomi, dan pendekatan restoratif.

Kata kunci: psikologi perkembangan, kelekatan orang tua, pola asuh

A. INTRODUCTION

Children with emotional and behavioral disorders (*emotional and behavioral disorders*/EBD), known in Indonesia as *tunalaras*, are included in the group that requires special attention in the study of developmental psychology (Darmiah, 2019). The maladaptive behavior shown by children often manifests itself in various forms, such as an inability to control emotions, impulsive actions, and inappropriate ways of social interaction (Selian, 2023; 2024). Selian (2025) explains that clinically, the condition can be in the form of externalization disorders, for example *conduct disorder* and *oppositional defiant disorder* (ODD) which is characterized by aggressiveness, defiant attitudes, and violations of social rules. On the other hand, this condition can also include internalized disorders such as anxiety and depression, which although they are more hidden and not easy to recognize, their impact on the child's developmental process is no less significant.

From a developmental point of view, the emergence of maladaptive behavior in children with EBD is not an instant phenomenon, but is the result of an accumulation process influenced by complex interactions between biological, psychological, and environmental aspects. Findings from developmental neuroscience reveal that children with EBD often show variations in the structure and function of the brain, particularly in the parts responsible for emotion regulation and impulse control (Selian et al., 2025; Rizkiyani & Selian, 2025; Travelancya & Ula, 2022). However, these biological factors do not work in isolation, but are dynamically related to the parenting received by the child and the conditions of his social environment (Selian, Setianingsih, & Rahma, 2025).

Quality of nurturing and attachment bonds (*attachment*) between the child and his caregiver has a significant influence on the appearance of maladaptive behavior. As explained in the theory of attachment Bowlby (1982), the child's initial interaction experience with the main caregiver figure forms an internal mental model (*internal working models*) which in turn becomes the basis for

children to perceive themselves and their social environment. Children who have an insecure attachment style (*insecure attachment*) has a high chance of forming ineffective emotion management strategies, thus potentially triggering the emergence of maladaptive behavior. As an illustration, children with an anxious-ambivalent attachment type often show a sticky attitude (*clingy*) and highly dependent, whereas children with avoidant attachment type usually show an impression of emotional unresponsiveness, but instead harbor a vulnerability to explode in aggression.

External social environments, such as school and community life, also make an important contribution to the formation of maladaptive behavior. Children with EBD often face challenges in both learning and socializing, which can aggravate the difficulties they already have (Kauffman & Landrum, 2018; Wagner et al., 2005). For example, failure to establish friendships can lead to social exclusion, which then risks triggering depression and aggressive behavior (Andani & Wahyuni, 2020). Longitudinal evidence also shows that peer rejection predicts later aggressive behavior problems in children (Dodge et al., 2003). Not only that, but the negative label of society that is often imposed on children with maladaptive behavior often results in a negative cycle: rejection that comes from the environment actually reinforces these patterns of behavior that are no longer adaptive (Kholifah & Sodikin, 2020; Link & Phelan, 2001).

A comprehensive understanding of maladaptive behavior in children with EBD is crucial in designing appropriate intervention strategies. A comprehensive approach that combines biological, psychological, and social factors is needed to support these children to develop more optimally. This emphasis on the family is supported by empirical evidence. A meta-analysis of 69 samples (N = 5,947) found a significant association between insecure attachment and externalizing problems (d = 0.31), and the association was stronger in clinical samples (d = 0.49) (Fearon et al., 2010). Meta-analytic evidence on parenting programs also indicates that strengthening parenting practices can improve children's behavioral and

emotional outcomes (Sanders et al., 2014). Therefore, an early intervention program that prioritizes improving parental competence in parenting, developing children's ability to manage emotions (Selian & Amalia, 2024), as well as the preparation of an inclusive and supportive environment, can be a decisive factor to inhibit the deterioration of maladaptive behavior while improving the well-being of children with EBD in the future.

The absence of attachment bonds (*attachment*) that are safe in parent-child relationships, triggered by inconsistencies in parenting, neglect, or conflicting household situations (Selian & Yulasteriyani, 2024), is a crucial factor that has the potential to disrupt the stability of children's psychological development. Based on the theory of attachment Bowlby (1982), the strong and sensitive emotional bond between the child and the primary caregiver figure in the early days of life is a fundamental foundation for the growth of his ability to manage emotions, build confidence, and foster social relationships later in life. If this bond of attachment is disrupted, for example by erratic parenting, where parents sometimes meet the needs of the child but at other times are indifferent, then the child will have difficulty forming definite expectations about emotional support from his caregiver. This instability condition ultimately often gives rise to an insecure attachment pattern (*insecure attachment*), which is characterized by the child's tendency to be highly dependent (ambivalent), emotionally withdrawn, or exhibit unstructured maladaptive behavior.

The study of the relationship between parental attachment and maladaptive behavior in children has been present in the treasure trove of developmental psychology research in Indonesia for a long time. A number of previous researches, such as studies conducted by Hendriani et al. (2024), has confirmed a significant association between insecure attachment styles and diverse manifestations of maladaptive behavior in the general child population. However, if studied further, there is still a hole in knowledge (*knowledge gap*) which is quite broad about the operational mechanism of attachment dynamics to

specific groups, in this case children with EBD who are undergoing a coaching period at the Special Children's Development Institution (LPKA).

The uniqueness of this research lies in its efforts to fill the study gaps that have not been explored by previous researches. So far, studies on attachment and maladaptive behavior have mostly concentrated on children who grow up in a conventional family environment or attend public educational institutions, without including consideration of the special complexities experienced by children with EBD in the Special Children's Development Institution (LPKA). In fact, the situation of LPKA presents very typical psychosocial dynamics, including physical separation from parents, a very regular and disciplined daily schedule, and a negative label as a child in conflict with the law. It is precisely these various specific factors that have not received much attention in previous studies.

This study aims to examine the relationship between parental attachment and maladaptive behavior among children with EBD (*tunalaras*), namely children with a diagnosis or a history of emotional conditions and maladaptive behavior who are undergoing a coaching period at LPKA Banda Aceh, a group that often goes unnoticed in developmental psychology research in Indonesia. The significance of this study rests on two reasons. First, children with EBD are a population that specifically requires a comprehensive psychological approach, given the complexity of the emotional and behavioral problems they experience. Second, intervention efforts for children with EBD have so far focused more on overcoming the symptoms of maladaptive behavior that are visible to the naked eye, without reaching the source of the problem that may be rooted in the dynamics of relationships with parents or primary caregivers.

B. RESEARCH METHODS

This study applies a qualitative method through a case study design to comprehensively dive into the relationship between parental attachment and maladaptive behavior in children with EBD at the Banda Aceh Special Children's Development Institute (LPKA). This design was chosen on the basis of its

suitability for the purpose of research that wants to understand the complexity of phenomena in *Setting* the specific (Ardiansyah et al., 2023; Creswell & Poth, 2018; Khalefa & Selian, 2021; Yin, 2018), by placing the participants' personal experiences as the center of analysis. The research locus was determined at LPKA Banda Aceh with the consideration that this institution houses children with EBD (*tunalaras*) who have varied family backgrounds and diverse, complex maladaptive behavior.

The selection of samples in this study was carried out by *purposive sampling* technique (Palinkas et al., 2015), where the inclusion criteria set include: (1) children aged 12-18 years classified as children with EBD (tunalaras), namely those who have a diagnosis or a history of emotional conditions and maladaptive behavior, (2) are undergoing a coaching period at LPKA Banda Aceh, (3) have experience interacting with parents or primary caregivers before entering LPKA, and (4) agree to participate in the study through *informed consent*. Overall, the study involved 55 participants, considering that this number was sufficient to reach the data saturation point in a qualitative approach (Guest et al., 2006).

Data collection in this study uses three main methods. First, a semi-structured *in-depth interview* was conducted using an open-ended question guide (Kallio et al., 2016). Interview topics include the child's perception of the relationship with the parent, the parenting experience received, the pattern of attachment to the parent or caregiver, and the manifestation of maladaptive behavior (such as aggression, impulsivity, etc.) and its triggering situations. All interview sessions are recorded and transcribed verbatim to maintain data accuracy. Second, participant observation was carried out where the researcher directly observed children's behavior in daily interactions in the LPKA environment, for example during group activities or counseling sessions, to enrich the data from the interview results. Third, a documentation review was carried out by analyzing case records from LPKA officers and psychological assessment reports for the purpose of data triangulation.

The data obtained from the interviews were analyzed using thematic analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2006) through a series of analytical stages. The initial stage begins with transcription, where all interview recordings are transcribed verbatim to ensure the integrity of the data. The next process is coding, where researchers identify and mark response patterns that appear according to the predetermined categories. To validate the findings, data triangulation (Carter et al., 2014) was carried out by verifying the information from the interview results against observation data and supporting documents such as case records from LPKA. The final stage of this analysis is theme formulation, where all findings are grouped and synthesized into key themes that represent key patterns in the research (Braun & Clarke, 2006; Nowell et al., 2017).

C. RESEARCH RESULTS

Family Background and Parenting Patterns

The findings of the study obtained from in-depth interviews with 55 children with EBD at LPKA Banda Aceh revealed the significance of family background and parenting context in the development of their maladaptive behavior. The socioeconomic characteristics of the participating families are dominated by the lower middle strata, with the composition of their parents' work as follows: 22 people (40%) work as coffee and oil palm farmers, 10 people (18.2%) are state civil servants (ASN), and 23 people (41.8%) are involved in various other informal jobs with irregular incomes, such as mobile traders, freelance workers, or day laborers.

The results of research on parenting style give rise to a multidimensional picture. A total of 23 participants (41.8%) indicated that they grew up in a fairly harmonious and conflict-free household atmosphere. This group describes the dynamics of parenting that tend to be consistent despite facing various financial limitations. On the other hand, the majority of the study subjects consisting of 32 children (58.2%), experienced various forms of parenting that were not conducive

and risked inhibiting their psychological maturity, which could ultimately contribute to the emergence of maladaptive behavior.

The family configuration of most of the respondents of this study is characterized by various structural and relational problems. A prominent characteristic is unstable family dynamics, where many children come from broken *homes* due to divorce, separation, or the absence of parental figures. In some cases, the parenting pattern experienced by children is nomadic by moving between extended family members. Another problematic aspect lies in the parent-child relationship which is distant and distant, characterized by a lack of meaningful communication. The interactions that occur are often limited to fulfilling basic material needs without emotional intimacy. In addition, the domestic environment is also colored by chronic and recurrent family conflicts, creating an uncomfortable domestic atmosphere due to verbal and physical quarrels between parents that often occur. The phenomenon of neglect and minimal parenting involvement was also reported by some respondents, who admitted to spending more time outside the home to avoid domestic tension or due to a lack of supervision from parents. Not infrequently, this situation is exacerbated by the application of negative parenting, which in some cases manifests itself in the form of harsh, inconsistent parenting practices, and even involves elements of violence both physically and emotionally. This multidimensional constellation of family problems creates a vulnerable foundation for the development of maladaptive behavior in children.

The findings of this study indicate that although there is diversity in the family context of children with EBD, most of them experience sub-optimal parenting practices. The confluence between economic pressures and dysfunctional family dynamics creates a growth and development environment that is full of obstacles for these children. The parenting reported by 32 participants was consistent with the profile of at-risk families that in the literature is often associated with the emergence of maladaptive behaviors in young

individuals. These findings not only confirm the results of previous studies on the significance of parenting quality in child development, but also underscore the urgency of a comprehensive intervention, focusing not only on the disabled child individually, but also on the family system that is at the root of the development of their maladaptive behavior.

Attachment Dynamics in Children

A study on attachment dynamics in 55 children with EBD at LPKA Banda Aceh succeeded in identifying a meaningful pattern in terms of how they asked for help and perceived support from their families. These findings provide crucial *insights* into the quality of the emotional relationship between children and their parents or primary caregivers, which serve as a foundation for the development of their emotion regulation and maladaptive behavior.

1. Pattern of Asking for Help

When faced with problems or difficulties, study participants showed variations in patterns of seeking help. A total of 16 children (29.1%) showed a tendency to harbor problems internally without sharing them with anyone. This pattern reflects a lack of trust in the caregiver's emotional readiness to provide support or a fear of experiencing rejection. Some participants revealed that they had "become accustomed to dealing with problems on their own" as a result of past experiences where attempts to ask for help led to abandonment or reprimands. Meanwhile, almost a third of respondents (17 children or 30.9%) still make parents the main mainstay figure to ask for support. However, the majority of them reported that the responses given by parents were non-judgmental; Sometimes *supportive* but on other occasions it is unresponsive. On the other hand, the group with the largest proportion of 22 children (40%) actually felt more comfortable seeking help from individuals outside the parental circle, such as grandparents, siblings, friends, or spouses. These findings indicate the occurrence of *attachment figure shifting* phenomenon, in which children compensate for the emotional absence of parents by building new bonds of dependence on others.

Some participants even explained that they felt "more understood and listened to" by their siblings or close friends than by their own biological parents.

2. Perception of Parent/Family Support

Participants' responses to questions about feelings of being understood and supported by parents or families were clearly polarized. A total of 32 children (58.2%), who are the majority, said that their parents or their core family do not deeply understand the feelings and difficulties they face. Some participants described concrete experiences of feeling ignored (such as complaining "Dad is busy at work, never asks how I feel"), being taken seriously ("They said I was late"), or being blamed ("Said I was looking for attention"). This negative perception has a strong correlation with their tendency to hide problems or seek sources of support from outside the family environment. On the other hand, 23 children (41.8%) stated that they felt sufficiently understood and supported by their parents or family. However, when elaborated further, some children in this group admitted that the "understanding" they received was often conditional as an example, appearing only when they did not exhibit maladaptive behavior or were able to meet the expectations set by their parents.

Children's Behavior That Results in Conflict with the Law

Based on an in-depth investigation of 55 children with EBD at LPKA Banda Aceh, this study succeeded in uncovering various triggering factors underlying maladaptive behavior that caused them to face the law. The findings reveal the complexity and diversity of behavioral backgrounds that require different interventions according to the individual characteristics of each case. The dominant group as many as 45.5% of children undergo coaching at LPKA due to cases of sexual intercourse with their partners, where the women's families report them with allegations of rape. Most children in this category claim that sexual intercourse occurs voluntarily, but female parents who know of the relationship take action to report the incident to the authorities with allegations of rape. These cases illustrate the complexity of adolescent relationship dynamics, social norms,

and the tension between adolescent autonomy and family control in Acehnese society that is steeped in religious and traditional values.

Three participants were involved in the act of rape against the victim who was a sibling and an individual outside the family. These cases indicate the presence of pathological sexual maladaptive behavior and hint at a possible background of highly dysfunctional parenting or a history of traumatic experiences in the children.

In addition to the main cases, this study also documents various other forms of criminal acts that are the background to legal proceedings against the children. It was recorded that six children (10.9%) were involved in motorcycle theft cases with various motives, ranging from economic encouragement to the influence of peer pressure. Five participants (9.1%) were involved in the theft or robbery of jewelry, which was generally carried out in groups with the main target being gold necklaces and bracelets. A total of six other children (10.9%) committed various acts of theft of items such as mobile phones, iron materials, cash, and other valuables with various motives. Narcotics abuse cases involved seven children (12.7%) who were active in the consumption and trafficking of methamphetamine and marijuana. In addition, there was one case of murder (1.8%) with very complicated dynamics and one case of house burning (1.8%) triggered by a conflict with a neighbor. Furthermore, one participant (1.8%) was identified who acted as a pimp in commercial sex trafficking practices. The various maladaptive behaviors expressed through criminal acts reflect the vulnerability and complexity of the problems faced by children with EBD.

D. DISCUSSION

The results of the study that revealed the prevalence of lower-middle socioeconomic conditions and disharmonious parenting dynamics in the families of children with EBD at LPKA Banda Aceh strengthen the theoretical postulate in developmental psychology about the family as a crucial microsystem that affects *trajectory* Child development (Cenceng, 2015). Alignment between these findings

and previous research, such as research Selian and Yulasteriyani (2024) which found a significant correlation between poverty, parenting stress, and maladaptive behavior in children, confirming that economic pressure does not only play a role as a demographic variable, but is a condition that systemically erodes parents' psychological resources and hinders their ability to provide responsive and consistent parenting.

The prevalence of disharmonious parenting (58.2%) with the characteristics of a messy household (*broken home*), prolonged conflict, and neglect of emotional needs, in line with the concept of "*family adversity*" (family difficulties) introduced by (Kholifah & Sodikin, 2020). The two researchers argue that the accumulation of various stressors in the family environment such as unharmonious parental relationships, the application of discipline that is not adequate, and a lack of emotional warmth can create vulnerability in children to develop maladaptive behavior. In this framework, delinquent acts committed by children should not be seen solely as morally wrong decisions, but should be understood as a manifestation of long-standing dysfunction of the family system and a form of adaptation to an unsupportive environment.

The results of the study that revealed that about 60% of children grow up in a family environment with problematic parenting patterns are strengthened by the theory of attachment Bowlby (1982). The absence of an attachment figure that provides a sense of security and reliability (*secure base*) hinders the development of children's ability to manage emotions, foster empathy, and form healthy mental representations of themselves and others (Rahmatunnisa, 2019). This condition ultimately encourages children to form *Work* A model who views the world as uncertain and others as untrustworthy figures. Consequently, they try to seek recognition and comfort through various ways that are often maladaptive, including through delinquency and delinquency identity formation.

An important aspect that needs to be underlined is that the findings in this study are not intended to reduce the problem to a mere "guilty family". Instead,

this suboptimal parenting needs to be seen as a consequence of the complex interplay between structural determinants (such as poverty and limited access to support services) and individual factors (such as low parenting competence and parental mental health problems). Research conducted by Caliph and Sodikin (2020) About *Family Stress Model* It clearly demonstrates that economic pressure triggers psychological pressure on parents, which then disrupts the quality of parenting and ultimately contributes to the emergence of maladaptive behavior in children.

The results of the subsequent findings in this study present a worrying picture related to the dynamics of attachment bonds in children with EBD at LPKA Banda Aceh. Most participants exhibited an insecure attachment style (*insecure attachment*), which can be seen from their reluctance to ask their parents for help and the belief that their feelings are not understood in the family environment. This pattern is in line with the theory of attachment Bowlby (2007) explaining that unresponsive and inconsistent parenting practices will inhibit the formation of secure attachments, which serve as a fundamental foundation for the development of emotion regulation and adaptive behavior abilities, while their absence can contribute to the emergence of maladaptive behaviors.

The large percentage of children (40%) who seek help from non-parental figures such as grandparents, siblings, or friends shows an indication of a phenomenon that in the study of attachment is referred to as a shift in attachment figures (*attachment figure shifting*). This phenomenon generally arises when the main attachment figure (parent) is perceived to be inaccessible or less responsive to the emotional needs of the child (Bowlby, 1982). In these conditions, children feel compelled to seek a sense of security and support from a surrogate figure to meet their basic psychological needs of a sense of protection and understanding. These findings provide support for the research Andharini and Kustanti (2020) which reveals that delinquent adolescents with an insecure attachment pattern have a tendency to form intense relationships that are often unhealthy with peers

as a substitution for inadequate family ties, which in many cases reproduce maladaptive behavior.

The prevalence of "not understood" perceptions of 58.2% among participants reflects the presence of emotional misalignment (*emotional misattunement*) in parent-child relationships. Theory put forward by Fitriani and Hastuti (2017) Explain that parents' failure to read, interpret, and respond appropriately to children's emotional signals will interfere with the formation of emotional resonance between them. This repeated failure in emotional communication not only reinforces the pattern of insecure attachment, but also hinders the development of mentalization capacity, namely the ability of children to interpret the mental state of themselves and others (Jamil & Kuswardani, 2020). This inability in the mentalization process is often the foundation of the emergence of maladaptive behaviors such as impulsivity and aggression, because children have difficulty interpreting the intentions of others accurately and tend to respond based on distorted perceptions.

The results of the study showing that 29.1% of participants chose to hide their own problems hinted at the formation of ineffective emotion management strategies, which are characteristic of the avoidant attachment style (*avoidant attachment*). Children in this group have formed the understanding that expressing their needs will end in rejection or ignorance, so they tend to harbor stress and negative emotions (Ananda, & Satwika, 2022). From a long-term perspective, this pattern of internalization of emotions is a significant risk factor for the development of various internalization problems (such as depression) and externalization in the form of maladaptive behavior (such as aggression that arises from an outburst of repressed emotions).

The high proportion of cases reported by women's families (45.5%) in the context of adolescent sexual relations underscores the tension between adolescent autonomy and social supervision in society. These findings are in line with the study Fitriani and Hastuti (2017) which reveals that reporting to the legal realm is

often used as an instrument of social control, especially against the sexual activities of women and marginalized groups. In *Setting* Aceh society which is colored by religious values and strong norms, intimate relationships outside the bonds of marriage are not only considered as moral deviations, but also as a threat to social order. The reporting of these cases as rape even if the adolescent's confession was voluntary, reflects the family's efforts to restore the family's "honor" through the intervention of the justice system. This reality shows that the legal system can be repurposed for purposes beyond the principle of justice, in this case to control sexual behavior and enforce social norms (Andharini & Kustanti, 2020), which in turn can trigger a maladaptive behavioral response from the affected adolescent.

The rise of crime cases motivated by economic motives such as the theft of motorcycles, jewelry, and other valuables provides support for the proposition put forward in the Theory Bowlby (2007). This theory states that the inability to achieve goals that are considered culturally valuable (such as wealth and status) through legitimate channels will create pressure (*strain)* which has the potential to push individuals to maladaptive behavior. For adolescents from economically disadvantaged families, as the majority in the study sample, the urge to own certain items (such as mobile phones or motorcycles) in order to gain social acceptance can be intense. When access to legal means is hampered by structural poverty or lack of opportunities, delinquency is perceived as an alternative way to cope with such pressures.

On the other hand, cases that have more complex and serious dynamics such as sexual violence in the family, acts of murder, or arson tend to indicate the presence of more profound and pathological developmental disorders. Maladaptive behavior of this severity is generally related to exposure to traumatic experiences early in life, acute family dysfunction, and the possibility of personality disorders (Darmiah, 2019). Children in this group often not only fail to form a secure attachment, but are also very likely to experience various forms

of abuse (*Abuse*) and abandonment (*neglect*) severe ones, which in turn hinder their moral development, empathy skills, and capacity to control their aggressive impulses (Arif & Wahyuni, 2020).

Thus, the summary of the findings of this study confirms that maladaptive behavior that leads to children's conflict with the law is a manifestation of the complex interaction dynamics between individual, family, socio-economic, and cultural factors. A uniform and punitive-oriented legal policy will certainly not be able to touch the root of such a diverse problem. Instead, a differential and restorative approach is needed that takes into account sociocultural contexts, empowers family economies, and integrates trauma interventions and mental health support.

E. CONCLUSION

This study succeeded in mapping the complexity of the factors underlying maladaptive behavior in children with EBD at LPKA Banda Aceh, by highlighting the dynamics of parental attachment and family context. The results of the study confirmed that most children grew up in a disharmonious parenting environment and developed patterns of *insecure attachment*, which was reflected in their difficulty in seeking support from parents and a strong belief that they were not understood in the family environment. The conflict with the law experienced by these children, which mainly consisted of cases of sexual intercourse reported as rape and crimes against property, could not be separated from the socio-cultural background and economic conditions of the family. Therefore, this study makes an empirical contribution to the understanding that delinquency in adolescents is a manifestation of systemic failures in family and societal structures, not just individual faults. The implications of these findings underscore the urgent need to shift from a repressive legal approach to a restorative intervention model that touches on the root of problems, including damage to attachments, economic pressure, and social inequality.

Based on the findings and various existing limitations, several future research agendas are considered very important to deepen understanding and design appropriate interventions. First, *longitudinal* research is needed to map the *developmental trajectory* of children with EBD after completing the coaching period at LPKA. Such a study will be valuable in identifying the factors that predict the success of social reintegration and the prevention of *recidivism*, as well as evaluating the long-term effectiveness of the coaching programs that have been implemented. Second, *action research* to design, implement, and evaluate evidence-based intervention models that are specific to the context of LPKA in Indonesia is needed. This model needs to integrate psychological (such as trauma-based treatment and attachment therapy), social (such as life skills and restorative justice), and economic (such as vocational training). Thus, research does not only stop at the level of understanding the problem, but also actively contributes to the development of sustainable and contextual solutions for the welfare of children with EBD in Indonesia.

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