



# The Relationship between Family Function and Coping Strategies among Adolescents who Experience of Catcalling Verbal Sexual Harassment

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**Abstract.** The family has an important role for adolescents who experience of catcalling verbal sexual harassment. The aim of this study was to measure the relationship between family function and coping strategies among adolescents who experience of catcalling verbal sexual harassment. This study used a Cross Sectional design. It was conducted in July 2023 at SMA Kartika IV-3 Surabaya. The total sample in this study was 117 with simple random sampling. We collected the data using self-report questionnaires, family assessment device to measure family function and ways of coping questionnaire revised (WOCQ) to measure coping strategies. The data was analysed using Spearman Rho. The results of this study showed that family function among adolescents was predominantly in low category. Further, the most predominant of coping strategy was emotion focused coping. The study showed that there was a relationship between family function and coping strategies ( $p= 0.033$ ,  $r= 0.197$ ). Family function is interpersonal interaction among family members, including problem solving, warmth, closeness, adaptability, roles, behavioral control and communication. It was needed for increasing coping strategy among adolescents who experience of catcalling verbal sexual harassment.

Keywords: Family Function, Coping Strategies, Adolescents, Catcalling.

## 1. Introduction

Catcalling is a specific street harassment that use verbal harassment as well as nonverbal harassment, such as eye movements, physical touching, whistling, and sound without physical contact [1]. Catcalling is sexual harassment behavior that usually occurs in public area, for example on roads [2]. However, catcalling is viewed as tolerated sexual harassment.

Street harassment such as catcalling occurred frequently. It showed that 75% of victims of catcalling in London are women, 79% of women in India, 86% in Thailand, and 89% in Brazil. Jakarta was the fifth highest level of verbal sexual harassment, especially occurred

in public area such as in public transportation [3, 4]. Furthermore, based on data from National Commission on Violence against Women, it showed that there were 49,762 cases of sexual violence in the 2012 – 2021, including street harassment [5]. A pilot study of catcalling among adolescents at Senior High School Kartika Surabaya showed that there was catcalling phenomenon, 13 adolescents reported that they experienced catcalling harassment in public venue, such as whistling. It has psychological effect, uncomfortable, threatened, afraid and anxious [6].

## 2. Methods

This study used cross sectional design. Dependent variable was family function and independent variable was coping strategy among adolescents who experience of catcalling verbal sexual harassment. Data was collected in June 2023 at Senior High School Kartika IV-3 Surabaya. Sample in this study was student who experience catcalling and agreed to join in this study. Total sample was 117 respondents using simple random sampling. We used self-report questionnaires to measure the variables. Family function was measured using Family Assessment Device (FAD) to assess family function among adolescents. FAD has 47 items and using Likert Scale. Each item is scored on 4 point scale; strongly agree(4), agree (3), disagree(2), strongly disagree (1) [11].

Coping strategies was measured using the ways of coping questionnaire revised (WOCQ) by Folkman and Lazarus. It was interpreted by problem focused coping and emotion focused coping. It had 50 items to assess coping. The WOCQ questionnaire consists of 7 scale items for the problem focused coping: confirmative coping, seeking social support, planful problem-solving. Further, emotion focused coping strategy had 4 items: distancing, escape-avoidance, accepting responsibility, positive reappraisal and self-control. The score used is 0 = Never, 1 = Rarely, 2 = Sometimes, 3 = Often [12].

All of procedure was granted by ethical clearance from STIKES Hang Tuah Surabaya number: PE/67/VII/2023/KEP/SHT. This research was carried out after obtaining approval from the head school of senior high school and students who agreed to join in this study must sign the informed consent. The questionnaires were distributed to respondents and were carried out immediately and then collected at that time.

Descriptive analysis was used to describe each variable studied to depict frequency for each variable. In this study, the Spearman Rho Test was used using SPSS with  $\rho < 0.05$ .

### 3. Results

#### 3.1 Description of the Sample

Table 1 lists the characteristics of all participants. Total participants were 117. Most of respondents was predominantly by female (55.6%), 16 years old (69.2%), living with the parents (94.9%), and feel uncomfortable when catcalling (48.7%).

#### 3.2 Descriptive statistic and correlations among study variables

**Table 2** shows the frequency and the percentage of variables. Most of participants had low family function (38.5%) and only 27.4% had good family function. Further most of participants used emotion focus coping to deal with the stressors (40.2%). Table 3 shows the total score family function had a significantly positive correlation with the coping strategy ( $r= 0.197, p=0.033$ ).

**Table 1.** Demographic Characteristic of Participants (n=117)

Characteristic	Frekuensi (f)	Percentage (%)
Gender		
Female	65	55.6%
Male	52	44.4%
Age (years old)		
16	81	69.2%
17	36	30.8%
Living with family		
Living with the parents	111	94.9%
Not living with parents	6	5.1%
Sense		
Uncomfortable	57	48.7%
Panic, anxious, and afraid	40	34.2%
Usual	20	17.1%

**Table 2.** Descriptive Statistic of Variables (n=117)

Questionnaire	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Family function		
Low	45	38.5%
Moderate	40	34.2%
Good	32	27.4%
Coping strategy		
Emotion focus coping	47	40.2%

Problem focus and emotional focus coping	38	32.5%
Problem focus coping	32	27.4%

**Table 3.** Correlation among study variables (n=117)

Family function	Coping strategy					
	Problem focus coping		Problem focus coping and emotional focus coping		Emotion focus coping	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Low	16	37.8	17	37.8	12	26.7
Moderate	10	25.0	10	25.0	20	50.0
Good	6	18.8	11	34.4	15	46.9
Total	32	27.4	38	32.5	47	40.2

*Spearman's*  $\rho=0.033$

$r= 0.197$

#### 4. Discussion

This is the study to explore the relationship between family function and coping strategies among adolescents who experience of catcalling verbal sexual harassment. The results of this study showed the majority of respondents had low family function. One of the domains of family function was communication. It showed that the communication domain shows that communication is not effective. In the domain of effective involvement, it showed individualistic among each family member, and no trust between family members. If the family functions are not going well, it has effect on disharmony between children and parents as well as behavior problem among children [13, 14].

Family function refers to interpersonal interactions of the family groups, including problem solving, warmth, closeness, adaptability, roles, behavioral control and communication [15]. Family functions are related to psychological well-being and focuses on the process of achieving family goals [16-18]. Dysfunctional family can trigger stress of family members [19]. They may experience decrease in care, loss of love, less communication, and no control in behavior.

The study showed the majority of respondents used emotion focused coping. Adolescents tend to use emotion focused coping compared to other types of coping. The way to deal with stressors among adolescents who are in transition period age is emotionally.

Adolescents who use emotion focused coping tend to take an emotional approach and seeking social support also have sensitive feeling [20]. Emotion focused coping is the regulation of emotional responses to stressful situations. Furthermore, emotion focused coping is often used by individuals to look for positive aspects of problems that are considered threatening [21, 22]. This coping strategy consists of strategies for avoiding or distancing, selective attention, and appraise stressor to be negative events. Meanwhile, problem focused coping functions to regulate and change problems that cause stress. The strategies included identifying problems, collecting alternative solutions to the problem, considering the value and benefits of these alternatives, choosing the best alternative, and taking action. Problem focuses coping is needed for adolescents with bad experiences and trauma [23].

The study also showed that there is a relationship between family function and coping strategies among adolescents who experienced catcalling sexual harassment. Adolescents with sexual harassments experience tend to have post-traumatic stress disorders so they need support from family members, it refers to coping. Coping is a method to deal and face the problems. The role of parents to cope the problems in the family has important role to decrease stressor [24, 25], especially for adolescents who has negative experience. The victims need communicate their problem to family to release their stress and to deal with afraid, also to accompany them in the street to avoid repeat sexual harassment. In this study we expect to optimize family function for adolescents who has sexual harassment experience to avoid bad effect such as anxiety and depression. Because family is the safest place for adolescents [26].

## **Authors' Contributions**

Conceptualization or/and Methodology: DS, HS and; Data curation or/and Analysis: DS, AA, and AS; Investigation: None; Project administration or/and Supervision: None; Resources or/and Software: DS, AS; Validation: DS and HS,; Visualization: None; Writing

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