

Socio-Demographic Factors in Influencing the Role of Bully and Victim among the Malay Female Juvenile Detainees in Rehabilitation Centre before Detention

Junainor Hassan^{1*}, Hassad Hassan¹, Nor syamimi Mohamed Adnan¹ and Siti Norayu Mohd Basir¹

¹School of Human Development & Technocommunication, Universiti Malaysia Perlis.

ABSTRACT

Objective: This study examines the socio-demographic factors in influencing the role of bully and victim among the Malay female juvenile detainees before detention in a rehabilitation centre.

Methodology: This is a quantitative study which uses descriptive and correlation analysis. The study was done in one of the single-sex rehabilitation centres up north of Malaysian state. There were n=30 Malay female juvenile detainees involved in this study (n=4 Malay female juvenile detainees aged 19; n=4 respondents aged 18; n=8 respondents aged 17; n=6 respondents aged 16; n=3 respondents aged 15; n=2 respondents aged 14 and, n=3 respondents aged 13 years old).

Instrument: Self builds demographic questionnaire and Olweus Bullying Behaviour Questionnaire (BBQ). The Cronbach's alpha for BBQ was 0.867 with the role of bully scores on .0798 and role of victims scores on .815.

Result: The finding in this study shows the strongest correlation between the role of bully by the Malay female juvenile detainees were parent's or guardian's source of income ($r=.759, p<0.01$); the education and academic achievements of the Malay female juvenile detainees ($r=.756, p<0.01$); followed by residencies ($r=.702, p<0.01$) and, parent's or guardian's level of education ($r=.609, p<0.01$). As for the role of victim; the strongest correlation was found between education and academic achievements of the Malay female juvenile detainees ($r=.848, p<0.01$); parent's or guardian's source of income ($r=.778, p<0.01$); residencies ($r=.728, p<0.01$) and, parent's or guardian's level of education ($r=.656, p<0.01$).

Conclusion: Socio-demographic factor is an important influence factor for a young adolescent to take up the role of bully and victim in any bullying behaviour scenarios. These socio-demographic influence factors must be taken into consideration in studying bullying behaviour cases especially in designing any prevention programme or correctional programme.

Keywords: Socio-Demographic Factors, Malay Female Juvenile Detainees, Bully and Victim, and Bullying Behaviour.

1. INTRODUCTION

Bullying has been a detrimental behaviour which causes negative consequences on mental health issues (Kaltiala-Heino, R.; Rimpela, M.; Rantanen, F. & Rimpela, A. 2000), social and interpersonal relationship issues (Carlson, K.T., 2006a), environmental issues, education and academic issues; and even economic issues (Carlson, K.T., 2006b). Bullying is an act that is elicited from even young age to adulthood (Bender, D. Losel, F., 2011), which never ceased on crime-related behaviour (Baker, 2006) or other deviant act (Currie, C.; Zanotti C.; Morgan A., 2012 in Reports World Health Organization 2009/2010) that causes greater impact on health (Menesini, E; Modena, M. & Tani, F. (2009), safety (Waseem, Muhammad; Ryan, Mary; Foster, Carla Boutin; Peterson, Janey, 2013), and the well-being of the surrounding society (Wolke, Dieter & Lereya, Suzet Tanya, 2015).

There were many studies that investigate the bullying behaviour cases that involved young adolescents either male or female (Turkmen, Delia Nursel; Halis Dokgoz, Mihai; Akgoz, Suzana

*Corresponding Author: junainor@unimap.edu.my

Semran; Bulent Eren, Bogdan Nicole & Polat, Horatiu Oguz, 2013). Young adolescents is at greater risks in exhibiting bullying behaviour as they were at the stage of developing their unique self-identity. In the effort in achieving unique self-identity young adolescents will search for certain characteristics that they think 'fit' in portraying the 'self' or to refer to oneself to the public that they belonged (Duffy, Amanda L. & Nesdale, Drew, 2008; Ojala, Kris & Nesdale, Drew, 2004).

Building self-identity is closely related to young adolescent relationships with others, their interaction with surroundings and 'in connection' with their environment. Thus, relationships with other people especially with nucleus family members, friends at school and the local community play an important role in shaping their self-perception and moral (Wolke, D. Skew, A., 2012). Good moral attitudes which shapes acceptable behaviour in their family and local community (local socio-culture) will eventually heighten their self-worth (O'Moore, M. & Kirkham, C., 2001).

Failing in receiving good moral conduct inducer from families and local community will eventually retard their life perception and thus post greater risks in exhibiting bullying behaviour; hopefully one is to 'survived' in life especially in their own local social community. As to this perception of 'trying to fit in' the environment and socio-culture factor especially within one own age and group (in-group) (Duffy, Amanda L. & Nesdale, Drew, 2008), according to few studies young adolescents involved in physical bullying, verbal bullying, and relational bullying (Haynie, DL. Nansel, T., Eitel, P. *et al.* (2001).

Bullying behaviour according to Olweus (1993) was an act of actual or perceived abused and imbalance of power (between the victim and bully) that was done repeatedly and in a systematic way with the intention of inflicting harm to others. It is an act of 'escaped' in ensuring that they are able to withstand stress-induced environment (Guerra, N. G.; William, K. R. & Sadek, S., 2011). Most of these environmental inducer comes from their own life background and the culture in their community.

2. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Bullying behaviour has been known to have negative consequences not only physically but also affect the mind of the person (or group who experiences the bullying incidents). Alas, many studies have shown that any behaviour especially deviant behaviour has its trigger factors. This study focuses on the influence of socio-demographic factors; that may have induced bullying behaviour and the effect of these socio-demographic factors on the Malay female juvenile detainees bullying behaviour from the perspective of the role of a bully and victim.

2.1 Research Question

What were the socio-demographic factors that influenced the role of being a bully and victim among the Malay female juvenile detainees who were being detained in the rehabilitation centre before detention?

2.2 Main Objective

The main objective of this study was to determine the socio-demographic factors that influence the role of bully and victim among the Malay female juvenile detainees who were being detained in the rehabilitation centre before detention.

2.3 Specific Objectives

- i. To determine the socio-demographic factors in influencing the role of bully and victim among the Malay female juveniles detainees in the rehabilitation centre before detention.
- ii. To analyze the relationships between the socio-demographic factors and, the role of being a bully and victim exhibited by the Malay female juvenile detainees in the rehabilitation centre before detention.

2.4 Hypotheses

- i. To determine the socio-demographic factors among the Malay female juveniles detainees in the rehabilitation centre before detention. Frequencies of the demographic factors among the Malay female juvenile detainees in the rehabilitation centre according to category:
 - a. Residencies before detention.
 - b. Education and academic achievements of the Malay female juvenile detainees.
 - c. Parent's or guardian's level of education.
 - d. Parent's or guardian's source of income.

Descriptive analyses were conducted using the SPSS version 22.0 to tabulate the frequencies and percentages of residencies before detention, education and academic achievements of the Malay female juvenile detainees, parent's or guardian's level of educational, parent's or guardian's source of income.

- ii. To analyze the relationships between the selected demographic factors and the role of being a bully and victim exhibited by the Malay female juvenile detainees in the rehabilitation centre before detention.
- H₀: There were no significant relationships between the socio-demographic factors and, the role of bully and victim exhibited by the Malay female juvenile detainees in the rehabilitation centre before detention.

2.5 Framework of the Study

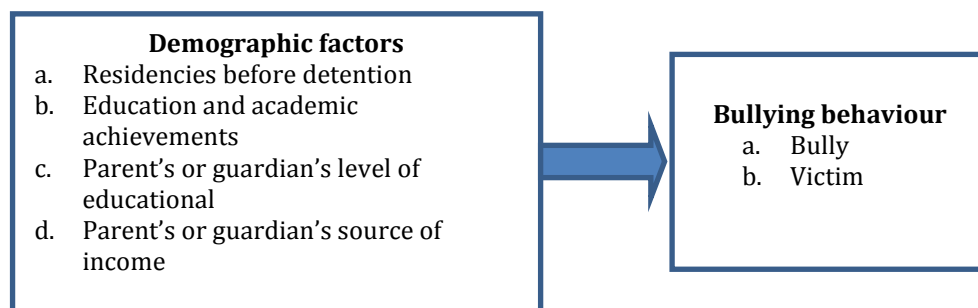


Figure 1. Research conceptual framework.

Figure 1 shows the conceptual framework of this study. The independent variables in this study were the socio-demographic factors. Meanwhile, the dependent variables were the role of bully and victim that was exhibited by the Malay female juvenile detainees in the rehabilitation centre before detention.

In this study, the Olweus Bullying Behaviour Questionnaire (BBQ) was being used to score up the role of bully and victim elicited by the Malay female juvenile detainees in the rehabilitation centre before detention. BBQ instrument has been modified by the researcher in order to suit the nature of the study. All of the items on cyberbullying (or bullying/victimized) via communication gadget/media social platform were omitted out.

2.6 Significant of the Study

The collection and interpretation of data in this study were highly beneficial to the counsellors and therapists in designing suitable programme or module for highly risk individuals (young female adolescents). The information gathered in this study will be a 'window' to the government agencies or any other concerned parties in creating appropriate campaign and programme in adhering awareness among the public especially family members within the local society to counter family issues that can be the main triggering factors in inducing bullying behaviour among the female adolescents nowadays.

2.7 Limitation of the Study

- i. Names, location of the rehabilitation centre and any other agencies or parties involved in this study will not be revealed as to conform with the confidentiality issues and to ensure the safety and well-being of all parties concerned.
- ii. This study only uses 30 respondents of the Malay female juvenile detainees. The total number was allocated to the assigned research centre as the centre itself can only accommodate only 30 to 40 detainees at one time. As for analysis purposes; the total number of 30 is deemed fit as this is a critical case study which profoundly uses special group with special characteristics.

3. METHODOLOGY

This study is a qualitative study.

3.1 Population, Sample of Respondent and Sampling Technique

As this is a special case study with a critical case sampling thus, all of the respondents shared a similar characteristic. All of the respondents were Malay female juvenile detainees who embraced Islam as a religion and were being detained in a single-sex rehabilitation centre that was located up north of Malaysian state with a total number of $n=30$. There were $n=4$ Malay female juvenile detainees aged 19; $n=4$ respondents aged 18; $n=8$ respondents aged 17; $n=6$ respondents aged 16; $n=3$ respondents aged 15; $n=2$ respondents aged 14 and, $n=3$ respondents aged 13 years old. This study was also characterized as critical case sampling as the rehabilitation centre cannot accommodate more than 40 detainees within a centre at a time thus, the number of respondents were limited.

3.2 Location of Study

All of the Malay female juvenile detainees were located in one of the single-sex for young female detainees rehabilitation centre up north in the Malaysian region.

3.3 Data Collection Procedure

Questionnaires were being distributed and respondents were asked to answer the questions within 20 to 25 minutes. The period of time in answering the questionnaire was given by the rehabilitation's authorities.

3.4 Instrument

This study uses a self-build instrument with two sections. Section A is the demographic information and Section B is the Olweus Bullying Behaviour Questionnaire (BBQ). In abiding certain safety and sensitive issues of the respondents and authorities; only four items of socio-demographic information were allowed.

Meanwhile, for the BBQ; items that asked on bullying behaviour using communication gadget were omitted out as seen irrelevant in this study. This is due to the nature of the environment of the respondents who were being detained in a locked up institution which prohibits any communications gadgets. Thus there were only 34 items used in the BBQ inventory and the Cronbach's alpha for BBQ was 0.867 with the role of bully scores is .0798 and role of victims scores is .815.

3.5 Method in Analyzing Data

Data were analyzed using SPSS version 22.0. Frequency and descriptive analysis were used to determine the highest and lowest score of the socio-demographic factors. Meanwhile, correlation analysis was performed to examine the relationships of the socio-demographic factors and the role of bully and victim among the Malay female juvenile detainees in the rehabilitation centre before detention.

4. FINDINGS

- i. To determine the selected demographic factors among the Malay female juveniles detainees in the rehabilitation centre before detention. Frequencies of the demographic factors among the Malay female juvenile detainees in the rehabilitation centre according to category:
 - a. Residencies before detention.
 - b. Education and academic achievements of the Malay female juvenile detainees.
 - c. Parent's or guardian's level of education.
 - d. Parent's or guardian's source of income.

4.1 Residencies Before Detention

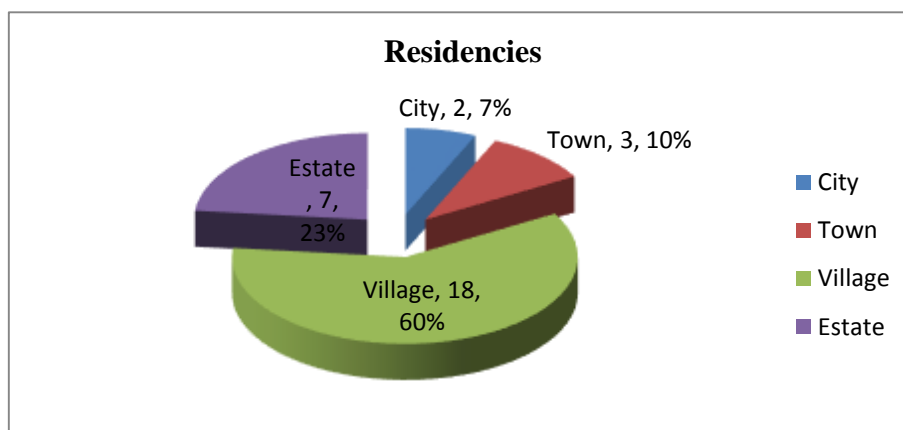


Figure 2. Residencies before detention.

Figure 2 shows that most of the Malay female juvenile detainees originated from village areas amounting to a total number of 18 (60%). A total number of 7 (23%) previously resided in the estate areas. Meanwhile, 3 (10%) of the Malay female juvenile detainees reside in town areas and 2 (7%) in the city areas.

4.2 Education and Academic Achievements of the Malay Female Juvenile Detainees

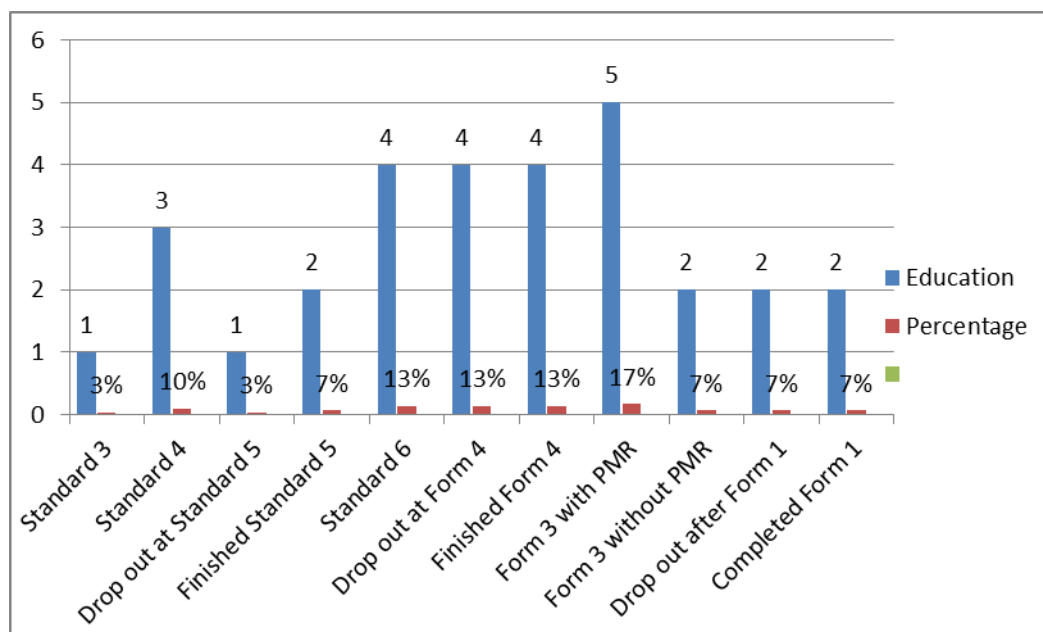


Figure 3. Education and academic achievements of the Malay female Juvenile detainees

Figure 3 demonstrated the distribution of academic background and achievements of the Malay female juvenile detainees in the rehabilitation centre. All of the 30 Malay female juvenile detainees were dropouts. The highest level of education was until Form Four in government secondary school.

There were 4 (14%) of the Malay female juvenile detainees who were once schooling in secondary form one with 2 (4%) of them completed the level and pursued their studies. Meanwhile, the other 2 (4%) dropped out of school after finishing the form one level.

Subsequently, there were 7 (24%) of the Malay female juvenile detainees who did their form three with only 5 (17%) succeeded in completing their Penilaian Menengah Rendah (PMR) and the other 2 (4%) dropped out of school when they are still schooling in form three.

The highest level of education among the Malay female juvenile detainees was in form four. There were 8 (26%) of the Malay female juvenile detainees who did their form four with 2 (4%) of them finishes their study but did not pursue to form five and the other 4 (13%) dropped out while they were still studying in form four.

In summary, there were 19 (63.33%) of the Malay female juvenile detainees who were schooling in a secondary government school from form one until form four with a few numbers of dropped out in a certain level. Thus, the rest of 11 (36.66%) of the Malay female juvenile detainees only schooling from standard one until standard six with a few dropouts on a certain level. There were 4 (13%) of the Malay female juvenile detainees who studied in standard six in a primary government school and managed to complete for their Ujian Penilaian Sekolah Rendah (UPSR). A total number of 3 (10%) of the Malay female juvenile detainees went schooling until standard five with only 2 (7%) finishes the level and 1 (3%) dropped out in the middle of the study. The lowest level of education among the Malay female juvenile detainees was in standard 4 that is 3 (10%) and standard 3 with only 1 (3%).

4.3 Parent's or Guardian's Level of Education

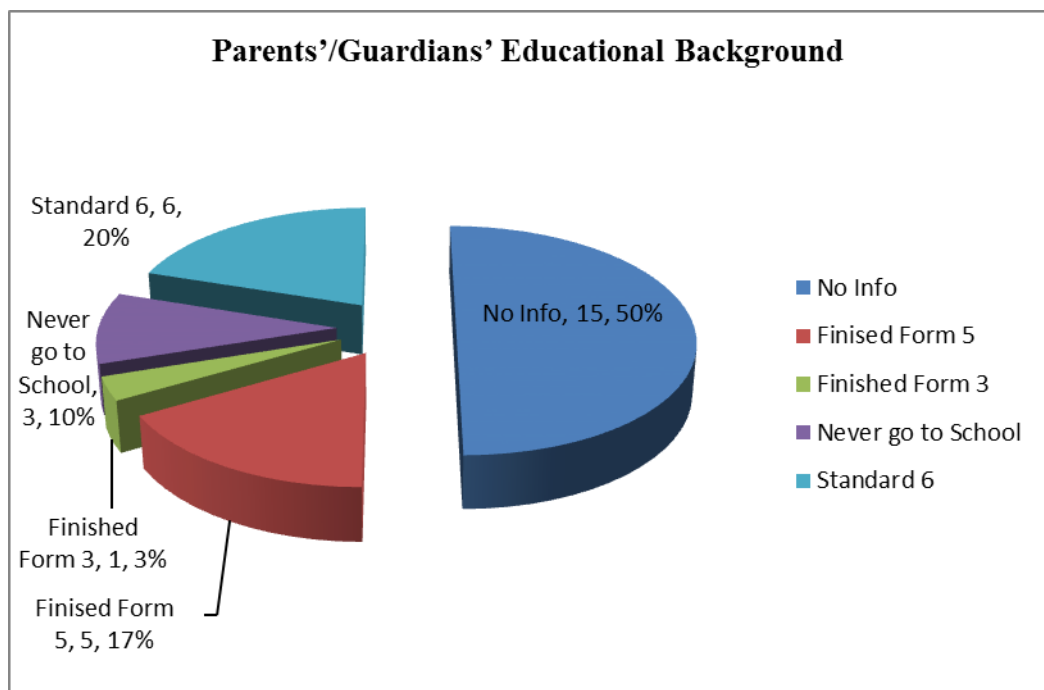


Figure 4. Parent's or guardian's education level.

Figure 4 presents the findings on parent's or guardian's education level. It shown that there were 15 (50%) of the Malay female juvenile detainees who did not provide information on their parents or guardian's educational background. Subsequently, there were 3 (10%) parents or guardians who never received any education at any level from either primary or secondary school levels. Only a total number of 6 (20%) parents or guardians did their standard six levels in primary government schools, and 5 (17%) parents or guardians successfully finish their education level of form 5 and 1 (3%) in form one.

4.4 Parent's or Guardian's Source of Income

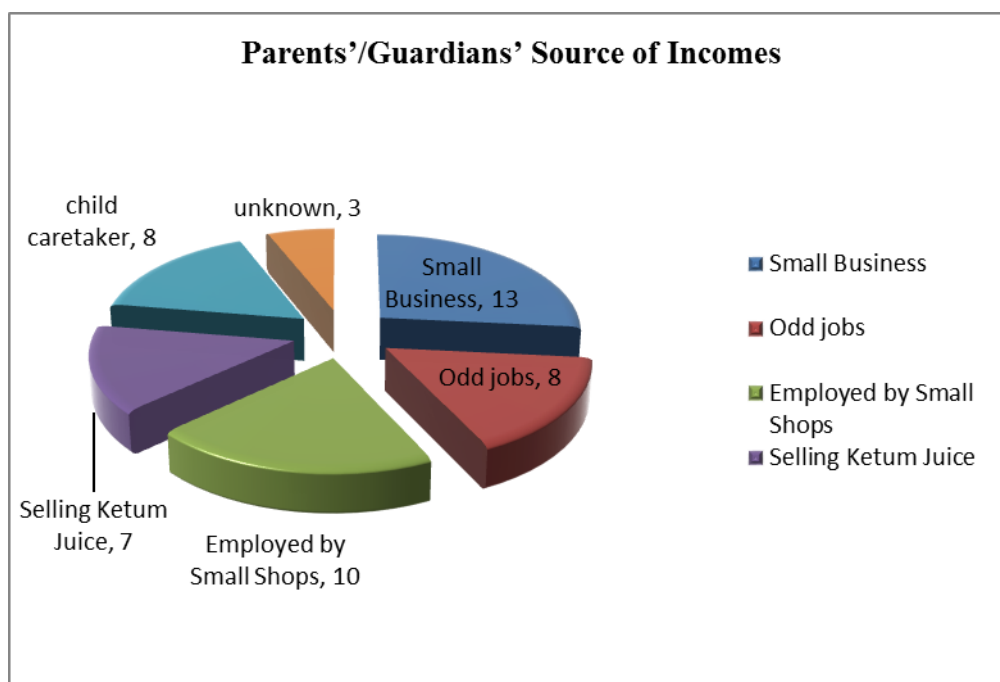


Figure 5. Parent's or guardian's source of income.

Figure 5 stated the parent's or guardian's source of income. The parent's or guardian's source of income may have come from one source or more. As shown in Figure 5, 13 parents or guardians involved in small businesses, 10 were employed by small shops and 7 were illegally making money out of selling ketum's juices (a type of drug that was made from ketum leaves). There were 8 parents or guardians who were doing odd jobs (any job activities that produced income such as land mowing, collecting, cleaning and breaking coconut shells etc.), 8 parents or guardians as child caretaker or nanny and 3 were unknown of their source of income.

- ii. To analyze the relationships between the socio-demographic factors and the role of being a bully and victim exhibited by the Malay female juvenile detainees in the rehabilitation centre before detention.

- H₀: There were no significant relationships between the socio-demographic factors and; the bully and victim role exhibited by the Malay female juvenile detainees in the rehabilitation centre before detention.
- H₀₁: There were no significant relationships between residencies and; the role of bully and victim by the Malay female juvenile detainees.
- H₀₂: There were no significant relationships between education and academic achievements of the Malay female juvenile detainees and; the role of bully and victim.
- H₀₃: There were no significant relationships between parent's or guardian's education and; the role of bully and victim by the Malay female juvenile detainees.
- H₀₄: There were no significant relationships between parent's or guardian's source of income and; the role of bully and victim by the Malay female juvenile detainees.
- H₀₅: There were no significant relationships between residencies and; the role of bully and victim by the Malay female juvenile detainees.
- H₀₆: There were no significant relationships between educational and academic achievements of the Malay female juvenile detainees and, residencies.
- H₀₇: There were no significant relationships between parent's or guardian's education and; residencies.

- H₀₈: There were no significant relationships between parent's or guardian's education and; education and academic achievements of the Malay female juvenile detainees.
- H₀₉: There were no significant relationships between parent's or guardian's source of income and; residencies.
- H₁₀: There were no significant relationships between parent's or guardian's source of income and; education and academic achievements of the Malay female juvenile detainees.
- H₁₁: There were no significant relationships between parent's or guardian's source of income and; parent's or guardian's education.

Table 1 Relationships between socio-demographic factors and the role of bully and victim by the Malay female juvenile detainees before detention

	Bully	Victim	Residencies	Edu&aca achievement	Parent's/guardian's edu	Parent's/Guardian's source income
Bully	1					
Victim	.765*	1				
Residencies	.702*	.728*	1			
Edu&aca achievement	.756*	.848**	.781**	1		
Parent's/guardian's edu	.609*	.656*	.585*	.598*	1	
Parent's/guardian's source	.759*	.778*	.721*	.697**	.898**	1

** $p < 0.01$

* $p < 0.05$

Table 1 shows the result of the correlation analysis to test all of the hypotheses aboved. It was demonstrated in Table 1 that there was a significant relationship between the role of bully and victim by having a score of ($r=.765, p < 0.01$). According to Table 1 the strongest correlation between the role of bully by the Malay female juvenile detainees was parent's or guardian's source of income ($r=.759, p < 0.01$); the education and academic achievements of the Malay female juvenile detainees ($r=.756, p < 0.01$); followed by residencies ($r=.702, p < 0.01$) and, parent's or guardian's level of education ($r=.609, p < 0.01$).

As for the role of victim; the strongest correlation was found between education and academic achievements of the Malay female juvenile detainees ($r=.848, p < 0.01$); parent's or guardian's source of income ($r=.778, p < 0.01$); residencies ($r=.728, p < 0.01$) and, parent's or guardian's level of education ($r=.656, p < 0.01$).

Table 1 also depicts clear understanding of the strong relationships between residencies and, education and academic achievements of the Malay female juvenile detainees ($r=0.781, p < 0.01$); parent's or guardian's source of income ($r=0.721, p < 0.01$); and the parent's or guardian's level of education with the least score of ($r=0.585, p < 0.01$).

Furthermore, Table 1 indicated that there were strong correlations between the education and academic achievements of the Malay female juvenile detainees and, the parent's or guardian's source of income with a score of ($r=.697, p < 0.01$); secondly, with the parent's or guardian's level of education ($r=.598, p < 0.01$).

Finally, it was proven that there was a strong correlation between parent's or guardian's level of education and parent's or guardian's source of income with a score of ($r=.898, p < 0.01$).

Referring to all of these correlation results in Table 1, the null hypotheses of there were no significant relationships between the socio-demographic factors and; the bully and victim role

exhibited by the Malay female juvenile detainees in the rehabilitation centre before detention can be rejected.

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

This study has proven that socio-demographic factors did influence the exhibition of bullying behaviour among the Malay female juvenile detainees before detention. It was proven that low academic achievements of the parents or guardians imply the location of residencies in which they were residing; whereby most of the residing areas were in rural areas. Having stayed in rural areas where economic activities were limited thus, most of the parents or guardians were doing odd jobs with low wages. Odd jobs with unstable economic that provided low wages affected the result of having low academic achievements of the Malay female juvenile detainees. There were even parents or guardians who were involved in outsourcing illegal economic income by producing 'ketum' juices (illegal drug). This negative act of income-earning may have resulted in incurring the bullying behaviour by the Malay female juvenile detainees.

Some of the studies that supported demographic factors as important influence factors in inducing bullying behaviour among young adolescent by either taking up the role of a bully or victim was by Turkmen & Halis *et al.* (2013), which studies on sex, age, parental unity or marital status, parents's level of education, parent's job or income. Another study was by Abeer, M. Shaheen; Hammad, Sawsan; Haorani, Eman M.; Nassar, Omayyah S. (2018), which add on socio-demographic influence factors of smoking and work after school.

Conclusively, this study has strong justification on showing evidence that socio-demographic factors with the most influential factor of parent's and guardian's source of income, parent's or guardian's level of education and residencies do play a strong role in inducing the Malay female juvenile detainees in taking the role of either a bully or victim.

It is suggested that these socio-demographic factors be of important critical factors in the future study of bullying behaviour exhibited by young adolescent especially those who were involved in high-risk deviant behaviour or crime-related behaviour. The data collected can be of high value for authorities who were in the field of social, education and economic related department or ministries in designing any prevention programme, correctional on the social base programme or any other suitable module that adheres the local social and economic community value.

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