

Aggressive and Delinquent Behavior among High Risk Youth in Malaysia

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Abstract

Currently there is an alarming increase on youth involved in delinquency and criminal action in urban and sub urban areas of Malaysia. This paper aimed to measure the level of aggressive and delinquent behaviour, identify the most common delinquent behaviours, and examine the associations of aggressive and delinquent behaviour with demographic factors and individual characteristics among a sample of high risk Malaysian youth. The data used in this paper was obtained from a larger study designed to identify patterns of delinquent behaviour among teenagers and young people (15-40 years old). The results indicate that although the sample consisted of high risk youth, participants scored low in delinquent behaviour and moderate in aggressive behaviour. The findings also show significant associations between delinquent behaviour levels with both age and ethnicity; but no significant associations with gender or religion. Results indicate that common perceptions about at-risk youth may run contrary to reality; despite being at-risk, the respondents displayed lower-than-expected levels of delinquency, and moderate aggressive behaviour.

Keywords: aggressive behaviour, delinquent behaviour, risk, urban youth

1. Introduction

Aggressive behaviour is one of the components of the conduct disorder that consists of physical or verbal behaviour that harm or threaten with harming others (DSM-IV); and it can be self-protective or self-destructive (Ferris & Grisso, 1996). There are different types of aggressive behaviour; but commonly aggression categorized aggressive behaviour in terms of its function (Dodge & Schwartz, 1997; Feshbach, 1971). Thus the most predominant and influential classification is hostile aggression and instrumental aggression (Feshbach, 1970). Hostile aggression also called affective aggression; it is in nature uncontrolled, emotionally charged physical or verbal violence that causes physical injury or pain on the victim (Atkins & Stoff, 1993). In contrast, instrumental aggression or predatory aggressive behaviour is controlled and purposeful non-physical violence that damage the victim's relationships with others and/or social (Meloy, 1988; Crick & Grotpeter, 1995; Atkins & Stoff, 1993; Dodge, 1991; Feshbach, 1970). Research on children and adolescent aggressive behaviour have reported that while boys tend to engage in physical aggression (hostile aggression) girls are more likely to express aggression in a relational sense (instrumental aggression). That is girls tend to use their relationships to inflict harm, manipulate peers to harm others' feelings of social acceptance (e.g. social exclusion, rumours and slander) (Miller-Ott & Kelly, 2013; Basow, Cahill, Phelan, Longshore, & McGillicuddy-DeLisi, 2007; Hadley, 2003).

According to Liu (2005) studies have shown that childhood and adolescent aggressive behaviour is a strong predictor of delinquency (Farrington, 2001; Moffitt, 1993). While aggressive behaviour has been described as part and parcel of a behavioural disorder; delinquency is a legal concept used to describe diverse antisocial actions including theft, burglary, robbery, vandalism, drug use, and aggressive behaviour (Farrington, 1987). Delinquency is often used as a synonymous of antisocial behaviour which include lying, cheating, stealing, and committing antisocial acts, etc. (Achenbach, 1991; Achenbach & Edelbrock, 1983). In this article, delinquency is specifically used describe antisocial behaviours that are considered unlawful in Malaysia (e.g. using drugs; damaging public properties; hitting or physical assaulting others, driving without a license; carrying weapon;

drinking alcohol; engaging in premarital sex, etc.)

Youth delinquency is also referred to as juvenile delinquency, juvenile offending or youth crime; and it has been defined as the participation in illegal behaviour by young people under the statutory age of majority (Siegel & Welsh, 2005), which in most countries is 19 years old. Youth delinquent actions can range from status offenses (such as underage smoking), to property crimes and violent crimes. Most delinquent acts committed by adolescents tend to be non-violent (Moffitt, 2006). Some of these actions would be normally charged as a crime if the offender is an adult (e.g. over 19 years old). Nonetheless, depending on the type and severity of the delinquent offense/action it is possible for minors to be charged as adults. Authors suggest that juvenile delinquency can be considered normative teen behaviour and that most young people commit non-violent crimes during adolescence (Steinberg, 2008; Moffitt, 2006). However, juvenile repeated and persistent delinquency actions and/or violent crimes can turn into violent offenses and the offenders would start exhibiting antisocial behaviour (Moffitt, 2006). Thus these young people who are involved in repeated and persistent delinquency or criminal actions can be considered as youth at risk

Previous research has identified two types of antisocial behaviour namely early-onset type and late-onset type (Schulenberg & Zarrett, 2006). According to the work by Schulenberg and Zarrett (2006) early-onset antisocial behaviour starts around age 11 and could lead to chronic juvenile delinquency in adolescence and adulthood. It has been linked to a range of interacting factors such as parent-child hostility, poor parenting practices, and peer deviance, to community structure and social support (Buehler, 2006; Tolan, Gorman-Smith, & Henry, 2003). And it has been reported that young people who have display early-onset antisocial behaviour tend to exhibit also poor impulse control, not thinking beyond their current state/situation and behave aggressively (Monahan, Cauffman, & Steinberg, 2009). On the other hand, late-onset antisocial behaviour starts after puberty, and it seems to be connected to the combination of hormonal and social changes that take place during adolescence; also it has been linked to need for autonomy, and the decrease of adult supervision experienced by teenagers (Schulenberg & Zarrett, 2006).

Similarly, youth offenders have also been categorized into two main types by Moffitt (2006); these two types are the age specific and the repetitive offenders. According to Moffitt (2006) repetitive offenders start showing antisocial or criminal behaviour in childhood and adolescence (e.g. displaying early-onset antisocial behaviour) and their antisocial or criminal behaviour continues into adulthood. While for age specific offenders displaying antisocial or criminal behaviour begins and ends during adolescence.

Earlier studies have indicated that the prevalence of youth delinquency increases during puberty, peaks in middle adolescence, and steadily declines as young people transition into adulthood (McCord, Widom, & Crowell, 2001; Nagin, Farrington, & Moffitt, 1995; Loeber, Stouthamer-Loeber, Van Kammen, & Farrington, 1991). In line with early findings, Moffitt (2006) and Schulenberg and Zarrett, (2006) have indicated that adolescence have a tendency to show some form of antisocial, aggressive or delinquent behaviour, but this tendency decrease as adolescence grow up and enter in adulthood. Thus, one could argue that normally antisocial and delinquency offenses during adolescence are temporarily and part and parcel of the adolescent period of adjustment. Nonetheless, research shows that whether they are age specific or repeat offender, they will exhibit more mental health, substance abuse, and finance problems, than those who did not delinquent or engage in risk behaviour (Aguilar, Sroufe, Egeland, & Carlson, 2000).

Therefore, efforts should be made towards reducing the impact of risk factors for youth delinquency. Amongst the risk factors for youth or juvenile delinquency the most commonly reported are demographic characteristics (e.g. age, gender, race); as well as aggression; deviant peer association, antisocial attitudes and behaviour; low intelligence (Bartol & Bartol, 2009; Farrington, 2002; Lynam, Miller, Vachon, Loeber, & Stouthamer-Loeber, 2009). Also some individual characteristics commonly associated with youth delinquency are impulsiveness, aggression, lack of empathy, lack of emotional control and cruel behaviour are risk factors associated with youth delinquency (Farrington, Loeber, Jolliffe, & Pardini, 2008; Piquero, Farrington, & Blumstein, 2007; Loeber, Green, & Lahey, 2003).

According to previous studies lack of close or positive parents' involvement in children lives is a common risk factor for early-onset antisocial behaviour (Patterson, DeBaryshe, & Ramsey, 1989). Some authors have suggested that children antisocial behaviour and delinquency actions might be a way for children to seek for attention (Brown, Mounts, Lamborn, & Steinberg, 1993; Collins, Noble, Poynting, & Tabar, 2000). Thus parents' reaction or lack of it would contribute to a vicious cycle by increasing vulnerability for negative peer influences and reinforce antisocial behaviour. Furthermore, studies have shown that adolescents whose parents know where they are and what they are doing are less likely to engage in delinquent acts (Laird, Pettit, Bates, & Dodge, 2003)

or to associate with deviant peers (Lloyd & Anthony, 2003).

According to Collins and colleagues (2000) children and adolescents tend to associate themselves with others that are similar to them, for example children and youth would associate themselves with those who have of similar school performance, involvement, coping and adjustment strategies; and prosocial and/or antisocial tendencies. Earlier studies show that during childhood, antisocial adolescents tended to interact with other children that also exhibit antisocial behaviour; thus their antisocial behaviour was reinforced (Dishion, McCord, & Poulin, 1999; Hartup & Stevens, 1999; Vitaro, Tremblay, Kerr, Pagani, & Bukowski, 1997). Also, there is research evidence to indicate antisocial behaviour in children and teenagers paired with ineffective parenting are associated with delinquent behaviour and involvement in deviant peer groups or gangs (Simons, Chao, Conger & Elder, 2001; Tolan, Gorman-Smith, & Henry, 2003). Similarly, an early study in Malaysia indicates that the tendency of parents of portraying a loose attitude in regards to traditional family values and changes in family day care patterns has resulted in parents no longer being role models for their children (Haslinda Abdullah, Sarjit Gill, Nobaya, & Ahmad, et al., 2009) and as results Malaysian adolescents and youth turn to their peers for guidance, support and understanding while drifting apart from their parents and families. Thus changes in parental attitudes and style and reliance on peers have important impact on individual personality and social development, particularly in shaping the lifestyle of youth; and it might be considered as important risk factors for youth delinquency in Malaysia.

Family socioeconomic status can also influence the development of antisocial behaviour in children and adolescents. So, poverty, low social economic status, paired with low parental monitoring, harsh discipline and deviant peer groups have been associated with juvenile delinquency (Farrington, 2002; Aaron & Dallaire, 2010; Cauffman, Piquero, Kimonis, Steinberg, & Chassin, 2007; Steinberg, 2008). Although race is another factor that has been found repeatedly associated with delinquency in USA, Canada and Australia (Leiber & Johnson, 2008; Lynam Miller, Vachon, Loeber, & Stouthamer-Loeber 2009; Yessine & Bonta, 2009; Livingston, Stewart, Allard, & Ogilvie, 2008; Marshall, 2006), the racial minorities youth referred in those studies belonged to social disadvantage groups. Thus, the relation between delinquency and race may be explained by contextual risk variables (Holmes et al., 2009). Furthermore, Mannes and colleagues (2005) found that while youth from low-income families and/or ethnic minorities are more likely to be involved in criminal, delinquency or in antisocial behaviour, youth with low development assets (relationships, skills, and values) were four times more likely to engage in antisocial behaviour regardless their economic status families (Mannes, Roehlkepartain, & Benson, 2005).

Gender is another demographic variable that is considered as a risk factor for delinquency. Research shows that boys who had early antisocial influences are more likely to become delinquents than girls (Dodge, Coie, & Lynam, 2006; Shader, 2003; Sprott & Doob, 2003; Bor, Najman, O'Callaghan, Williams, & Anstey, 2001; Wan Ghazali, 2000). In Malaysia, Siti Hadidah (1992); Raman (1999) and Wan Ghazali (2000) reported that delinquency and involvement in antisocial behaviour are more prevalent among boys than among girls. However, these differences may vary depending on the type of delinquency behaviour or criminal offense. According to Latimer and colleagues (2003) the prevalence of violent and sexual aggression is higher among young male offenders than young female violent and sexual offenders; however, while there is no gender differences in property crimes, and drug-trafficking. Some authors argue that being tough, aggressive and competitive is how boys are taught to reaffirm and express their masculinity (Eadie & Morley 2003); therefore young men are more likely to engage in antisocial and criminal behaviour than young women (Walklate, 2003; Brown, 1998). Nonetheless, nowadays gap between gender differences in youth delinquency seems to be getting smaller (Steffensmeier, Schawrtz, Zhong, & Ackerman, 2005; Cauffman, Farruggia, & Goldweber, 2008).

Early onset of aggressive behaviour and oppositional defiant behaviour in childhood are among the strongest risk or predicting factor associated with of antisocial behaviour and youth crime (Day & Wanklyn, 2012; Robins 1966; Thornberry, Hulzinga, & Loeber, 1995; Tolan & Thomas, 1995; Farrington, 1994; Moffitt, 1993). According to Campbell (1995) aggressive behaviour exhibit by preschool children could continue to middle school and escalate into antisocial and/or criminal behaviour during adolescent. And in line with Campbell (1995), Wasserman & Miller (1998) reported that the most serious and violent offenders had history of childhood misbehaviour and physical aggression. Similarly recent studies indicate that early aggressive behaviour predicts antisocial behaviour in adolescent; for example, Nagin & Tremblay (2001) reported that children who displayed high levels of aggression in kindergarten were identified as exhibiting chronic violence in older age. In their study, Nagin & Tremblay (2001) also found that high levels in hyperactivity and opposition in kindergarten were powerful predictors of high aggression. And Farrington and colleagues (2008) have indicated that violence in childhood or adolescence is the best predictors of future violence. Thus Tremblay and LeMarquand (2001) and

Bor and colleagues (2001) affirm that display of aggressive behaviour in children of 5 years of age strongly predicts antisocial behaviour among in adolescents. Earlier studies in aggression indicate that early onset of aggression is associated with serious and chronic offending among young people and young adults.

Currently there is an alarming increase of youth involved in delinquency and criminal action in urban and sub urban areas of Malaysia; and this paper aimed to identify the most common delinquent actions, measure the level of aggressive and delinquent behaviour and examine the associations of aggressive and delinquent behaviour individual with demographic factors and individual characteristics among Malaysians youth offenders.

2. Method

2.1 Procedure

The data used in this paper was obtained from a larger study designed to identify patterns of delinquency behaviour among teenagers and young people (15-40 years old) in Malaysia, and examine the psychosocial issues linked to this behaviour patterns. The main project used both qualitative and quantitative research methods and analysis. Data was elicited using Focus Group Discussions and a questionnaire. However, this paper will highlight the findings from the quantitative part of the project. The study was carried in Klang Valley; a metropolitan area which has a multi-ethnic population and in the past 10 years has experienced rapid urban development. Subjects for the quantitative study were selected using purposive sampling techniques; the sample was drawn from urban and rural areas in the Klang Valley. After identifying the potential participants, data was collected using a self-administrative questionnaire.

2.2 Sample

Respondents were selected using purposive sampling technique. The sample consisted of 270 high risk youth -adolescents and young people below 40 years old- living in Klang Valley. A total of 144 respondents were male (53.3%) and 126 respondents were female (46.7%); and 76.7% of the sample was in the 21 and 30 years old category (table 1).

2.3 Measurements

Data was collected using a self-administrative questionnaire that consisted of the following 8 sections: Socio-demographics, Self-worth, Religiosity, Family Relationships, Peer Relations, Delinquency Scale, and measurements of Aggressive Behaviour. For the purpose of this paper the demographic characteristics used were age, gender, ethnicity and religion. The outcome variables used for this paper were:

- Delinquency behaviour, consisting of 20 items that measure a 5-point Likert scale the frequency in which delinquent acts were committed by the respondent, ranging from "never " to " Too often ". The higher the score obtained, the higher delinquent behaviour committed by the respondent.
- Aggressive Behaviour consisted of 14 items that measured the aggressiveness of respondents in a 5-point Likert scale ranging from "strongly disagree" to "strongly agree ". High scores indicate high aggressiveness.

Along with the description of subjects, give the mended size of the sample and number of individuals meant to be in each condition if separate conditions were used. State whether the achieved sample differed in known ways from the target population. Conclusions and interpretations should not go beyond what the sample would warrant.

3. Results

Table 1. Demographic characteristics

		N	%
<i>Gender</i>	Female	126	46.75
	Male	144	53.3
<i>Age</i>	15-20 years old	53	19.6
	21-30 years old	207	76.7
	31-40 years old	10	3.7
<i>Ethnicity</i>	Malay	130	48.1
	Chinese	85	31.5
	Indian	55	20.4
	Buddhist	48	17.8
<i>Religion</i>	Christians	50	18.5
	Hindu	39	14.4
	Muslim	130	48.2

The ethnic and religion distribution of the sample is in accordance of that of the general population. Thus, even though the sampling method was purposive; we can say that it can indicate the general situation investigated. Interestingly, the descriptive analysis summarized in Table 1 indicated an almost even gender distribution in the sample of high risk youth, with 46% of the participants being female and the remaining 53.3% being male.

The frequency analysis presented in table 2 indicates that although the sample consisted of high high-risk youth, majority of them scored low in delinquent behaviour. However, 68% of the sample exhibited moderate levels of aggressive behavior.

Table 2. Levels of delinquency behaviour and aggressive behaviour

	Delinquency behaviour			Aggressive behaviour	
	Frequency	Percentage (%)		Frequency	Percentage (%)
Low	246	91.1	Low	45	16.7
Moderate	19	7.0	Moderate	185	68.5
High	5	1.9	High	40	14.8
Total	270	-	Total	270	100.0

Table 3 summarizes the most common delinquency behaviour among Malaysian youth. Among Muslim youth 'leaving the prayer' and 'not completing the fasting' were the most reported, but the rest of the listed delinquency behaviour were reported by all participants, regardless their age, gender or religion.

Table 3. Types of reported youth delinquent behaviour in Malaysia

Types Delinquent behaviour		
Leaving the prayer	Quarrelling	Throwing objects at people
Not completing the fasting	Using Drugs	Selling stolen goods
Premarital sexual intercourse	Hurting others	Violates honour
Drinking alcoholic beverages	Stealing	Broke into homes/building
Watching pornographic films	Damage to public properties	Glue sniffing
Fighting with parents	Buying stolen goods	Hit or physical assaulted parents
Driving without a license	Carrying weapon	

Using frequency analysis, Chi Square (X^2) the significant associations between demographic characteristics and levels of both delinquency and aggressive behaviour were examined. The results indicate significant associations between delinquency behaviour levels with both age and ethnicity; but no significant associations with gender or religion.

Table 4. Delinquency and aggressive behaviour by age group

	Levels of Delinquency Behaviour*				Level of Aggressive Behaviour**			
	Low	Moderate	High	Total	Low	Moderate	High	Total
15-20	44 (17.9%)*	8 (42.1%)*	1	53	15-20	6 (11.3%)*	31 (58.5%)*	16 (30.2%)*
21-30	196 (79.7%)*	8 (42.1%)*	3	207	21-30	39 (18.8%)*	144 (69.6%)*	24 (11.6%)*
31-40	6 (2.4%)*	3 (15.8%)*	1	10	31-40	0	10 (100%)*	0
Total	246	19	5	270	Total	45	185	40

Note: *% within Level of Delinquency Behaviour; **%within age category

The results presented in table 4, show that those 79.7% of those with low levels of delinquency behaviour were in the age group 21-30, while percentages of those who exhibit moderate levels were in the 15-20 and 21-30 age categories, however very few, only 5 participants, exhibit high levels of delinquency behaviour ($X^2(4) = 20.84$;

$p < 0.001$). When looking within each of the age categories it can be observe that in the 15-20 years old categories 58.5 % reported moderated levels of aggressive behaviour and 30.2% of them reported high levels of aggressive behaviour. While in the 21-30 years old categories 69.6 % exhibit moderate levels and 11.6% high levels of aggressive behaviour and the 31-40 age group all exhibit moderated levels of aggressive behaviour. In other words, being older was associated with moderate levels of aggressive behaviour ($X^2(4) = 16.81; p = 0.002$).

Table 5. Delinquency and aggressive behaviour by ethnicity

	Levels of Delinquency Behaviour*				Level of Aggressive Behaviour**			
	Low	Moderate	High	total	Low	Moderate	High	
Malay	116 (47.2%)	13 (68.4%)	1	130	Malay	33 (73.3%)	93 (47.45%)	4 (21.05%)
Chinese	78 (31.7%)	6 (31.6%)	1	85	Chinese	2 (4.44%)	65 (33.16)	8 (42.11%)
Indian	52 (21.1%)	0	3	55	Indian	10 (22.22%)	38 (19.39%)	7 (36.84%)
Total	246	19	5	270	Total	45	196	19

Note: *% within ethnic group; **%within Level of Aggressive Behaviour

The results summarized in table 5 below, shows that more Malay and Chinese participants exhibit moderate levels of delinquency behaviour than Indian participants ($X^2(4) = 10.51; p = 0.033$). The results also indicate that more Malay showed low levels of aggressive behaviour while more Chinese participants exhibit high levels of aggressive behaviour ($X^2(4) = 25.74; p < 0.001$).

Table 6. Level of aggressive behaviour by gender

Gender	Levels of Aggressive Behaviour			Total
	Low	Moderate	High	
Female	31(68.88%)	84 (45.41.7%)	11 (27.5%)	126
Male	14 (31.11%)	101 (54.59%)	29 (72.5%)	144
Total	45	185	40	270

Note: $X^2(2) = 14.951; p = 0.01$ *%within Level of Aggressive Behaviour

Table 6, above, shows that more male respondents exhibited both moderate and high levels of aggressive behaviour than female respondents ($X^2(2) = 14.951; p = 0.01$).

4. Discussion

The study sought to measure the level of aggressive and delinquent behaviour among Malaysian youth that were already engaging in youth crime; and to examine the associations of aggressive and delinquent behaviour with demographic factors and individual characteristics (age, gender, ethnicity and religion). The sample consisted of at risk youth; that is young people that engage in juvenile crimes in urban and suburban areas of Malaysia. The descriptive analysis indicated that about 48% of the young people engaging in criminal and/or antisocial activities at the time the data was collected were Malay; 76.7% of the total sample were between 21 and 30 years old and 53.3% of the youth that took part of this study were male. The finding of this study reflect a positive image of young Malaysians, since the high risk youth that took part on the study displayed low levels of delinquency and moderate aggressive behaviour. Indicating that is room for rehabilitation using relevant re-education programs and positive leisure activities.

In line with Steinberg and Monahan (2007) and Moffitt (2006) the results indicate that being older was associated with low levels of delinquency behaviour, and with moderate levels of aggressive behaviour. While the young people in the age groups 15-20 years old and 21 and 30 years old tended to score moderate and high in aggressive behaviour; the older group of young people participating in this study exhibit low level of aggressive and delinquency behaviour. The fact that the older group of young people participating in this study exhibit low levels of aggressive and delinquency behaviour, might be due to the fact that they have reach maturity and have responsibility as emerging adults in Malaysian society-this findings are in line with the literature on youth

development. However, these results might be underlining a gap in Malaysian youth research in assessing and understanding the difference needs and risk for those young people between 21 and 30 years old that engage in youth crime, and at risk and/or antisocial behaviour. Hence the lack of relevant and efficient intervention programs to address aggressive behaviour issues and risk factors in all the 3 different age groups of young Malaysians. Any preventive program intervention to address effectively youth delinquency and/or antisocial behaviour needs to be age appropriate; thus the importance of understanding the risk factors are most relevant for each period of development (Herrenkohl, Maguin, Hill, Hawkins, Abbott, & Catalano, 2000).

Religion was not found to be associated with religion was not associated to either levels of delinquency or aggressive behaviour, but ethnicity was associated with both. Although both Malay and Chinese at risk group show more moderate levels of delinquency behaviour than Indian participants; Chinese at risk youth reported higher levels of aggressive behaviour than the other ethnic groups. It is possible that the type of upbringing, the community dynamics and stress level experience by young people would give rise to opportunity for them to behave aggressively. However, to the authors' knowledge there are currently no empirical data in Malaysia to support or reject this hypothesis. Thus, in depth studies need to be conducted to investigate further the root cores of the issue of aggressive behaviour among these ethnic groups.

The results in this study indicated that level of aggressive behaviour was associated with gender. More male at risk youth respondents exhibited both moderate and high levels of aggressive behaviour than female at risk groups, but there were no gender associations with delinquency behaviour in this study. These results are in line with that of Rey and colleagues (2005); in their study they also found no gender differences among the group of young delinquents, but most male exhibit aggressive behaviour than female respondents. The association of aggressive behaviour with gender in our study might be explain by the fact that the aggressive behaviour measured in the study was overt rather relational aggression. The literature in aggression indicates that while boys are most luckily to engage in overt aggression, girls tend to display more relational aggression (e.g. Basow, Cahill, Phelan, Longshore, & McGillicuddy-DeLisi, 2007; Miller-Ott & Kelly, 2013)

Research suggests an association between leisure boredom and high-risk behaviours among young adults and adolescents (Patterson & Pegg, 1999; Wegner & Flisher, 2009; Caldwell & Smith, 1995; Newberry & Duncan, 2001). For example authors suggest that adolescents and young adults who perceive their leisure to be unsatisfying may be at greater risk of engaging in risky activities (Yang & Yoh 2005; Larson & Richards, 1991) More specifically research indicate that young boys who experience high levels of leisure boredom and have a greater propensity to engage in antisocial or non-violent criminal behaviour (e.g. drinking, car/motor racing,) (Iso-Ahola & Crowley, 1991). There also studies that suggest that antisocial behaviour in adolescent and young adults is associated with hedonistic values and a lack of interest in conventional values and social values (Romero, Sobral, Luengo, & Marzoa, 2001); and with personality traits such as low straight forwardness, low compliance, and low deliberation (Miller, Lynam, & Leukefeld, 2003)

The findings of this study revealed that intervention programs designed to reduce and or manage delinquency based on and aggressive behaviour should not only focused on young people between 15 and 20 years old; but that there is a need for programs targeting young adults in the age group of 21-30 years old since more people in this age group tended to score moderate and high in aggressive behaviour. It can be argued that these 21 to 30 years old young people might be exhibiting chronic aggressive behaviour.

There are challenges in attempting to address youth delinquency in Malaysia, according to anecdotal evidence these challenges might be related to the struggle of Malaysian youth with identity crisis, emotional stress and boredom. And according to qualitative research data from various youth studies carried out in Malaysia there seems to be a great need of youth programs that focus on soft skills development and of values and moral education. Therefore to address these challenges it is needed (1) a more thorough approach in understanding how identity crisis, emotional stress and boredom impact the way in which young Malaysians behave and interact with their community, and (2) preventive programs that combine competency skills, and moral values education. However, a better understanding of youth crime, delinquency and aggressive behaviour among Malaysian youth is crucial, and it is highly recommended that further study are carried out to obtain in-depth data in order to elicit relevant and contextual information about the factors, motives and impact associated to aggressive behaviour in Malaysian youth.

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