

NARCISSISTIC PHENOMENON OF COMMUNITY STUDENTS IN SURABAYA

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Abstract

Students are the next generation who should have the character especially the prospective teacher students. To have good character, then every human being is protected from personality disorders, one of which is narcissistic. Although many sources say that narcissism is a necessity, this is not always justified. The purpose of this study was to explore the narcissistic phenomenon in teacher students in Surabaya. This study was conducted on 321 teacher students from three universities in Surabaya. The results showed that 38% of students belong to the narcissistic category. The findings of this study are useful for providers of guidance and counseling services in universities to formulate solutions to narcissistic problems among students.

Keywords: *Teacher Training, Students, Narcissism, Surabaya*

Introduction

Every individual has different needs, and different ways of fulfilling them. There are individuals who fulfill their needs in the right way so that they are able to adjust well, but there are also individuals who fulfill their needs in a deviant way so they are not able to adjust properly. One example of this deviant behavior is unhealthy narcissism. Maata, Uusiautti, & Kaarina (2012) stated that narcissistic behavior is needed by some narcissistic individuals to survive.

Narcissistic personality disorder is a common personality disorder in humans (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorder, 1994). There are two types of narcissists, namely narcissistic healthy and narcissistic unhealthy. Healthy narcissism is the behavior of individuals who have all kinds of feelings and are able to empathize with others. Thus healthy narcissist is based on true self-esteem, rather there is a match between the ideal of self and real self. In contrast to unhealthy narcissism which leads to interpersonal relationships that tend to be negative (Hotchkiss & Rynnanen in Maata, et al., 2012). There is no specific term for individuals with healthy narcissists, while narcissists are not healthy in this paper, hereinafter referred to as narcissists.

The trend of narcissistic development shows an increase from year to year. Twenge & Joshua (2010) explain the results of their narcissistic meta-analysis on students in America using Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI). The results of study 1, namely when the campus is controlled, shows ($k = 107$, $N = 49,818$). The results of the study were reinforced by the results of study 2 which showed the student NPI score at one of the campuses namely the University of South Alabama between 1994 and 2009 was ($N = 4,152$). The conclusions from the two results of the study together showed a significant increase in narcissistic characteristics over time (Study 1 $d = .37$, 1982-2008, and Study 2 $d = .37$, 1994-2009). The increasing trend in narcissistic development was also revealed by Maria (ANTARA News, October 17, 2010), whose research results showed that as many as 61.7% of students in Surabaya behaved narcissistically on Facebook's social network.

The age of students generally falls into the early adult age range. DSM-IV (1994) states that narcissistic behavior is a disorder that is common in humans, especially in early adulthood. Hurlock (1999) states that early adulthood is the age of the range between 18 years and 40 years. This early adulthood is an important period in which at this time is based (Santrock, 2000), individuals work harder in relationships with the opposite sex and leave little time for anything else. Based on these views, it can be concluded that students are included in the early adult age range with high potential to experience narcissistic personality disorder.

In this study, the research subjects were students who were generally included in the early adult development phase. Twenge & Joshua (2010) found that narcissistic tendencies are increasing in students in

America.

Narcissistic behavior has an adverse impact on social and emotional relationships between individuals. Campbell et. al. (2000) states that narcissistic individuals tend to be inflexible in social relations as well as self-improvement and unrealistic in career planning (Carr, 2008). They have a capacity that is weak in empathy for others (Kernberg, 2004; Ritter, et al., 2010). Narcissistic behavior is also positively correlated with other problems, especially agrarian behavior (Thomaes, et al. 2009; Ongen 2010; Lambe, et al., 2016).

This narcissistic phenomenon is important to be examined specifically for prospective teacher students. Future teacher candidates are expected to have character so they must avoid narcissistic personality. This study aims to find narcissistic phenomena in teacher students in Surabaya.

Research methods

This research was conducted at three universities in Surabaya that have faculty of teacher training or the like. The study sample totaled 321 students aged between 18-22 years ($M = 20.46$). The research instrument used was the Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI) developed by Raskin and Hall in 1979 (Raskin & Terry, 1988). In this study, researchers used the latest version of the NPI, NPI-16, which was adapted by Ames, et al in 2005. The NPI-16 was later adapted in the Indonesian version and showed valid and reliable numbers (16 items, $\alpha = 0.91$) Data analysis in this study uses descriptive statistics.

Research Results and Discussion

The research conducted on 321 teacher students in Surabaya showed that 38% of students belonged to the narcissistic category (figure 1). This research is based on previous research which states that narcissistic trends in students are increasing (Twenge & Joshua 2010). The trend of narcissistic phenomena cannot be avoided in individuals in this period. This problem is considered a serious problem because it has a negative effect on narcissistic individuals themselves and others. The trend in the development of narcissistic problems also shows an increase from year to year. Sadly, this narcissistic problem is a common problem in humans in early adulthood, which ranges from 18 years to 40 years old (Hurlock, 1999). The age of students is generally in the range of early adulthood. So that it has great potential to experience narcissistic personality disorders as expressed in DSM-IV (1994).

This early adulthood was an important period in which this period was based (Santrock, 2002), individuals worked harder in relationships with the opposite sex and left little time for anything else. Based on this view, it can be concluded that students are included in the early adult age range that has high potential for narcissistic personality disorder.

The result of this study shows that 38% of students in Surabaya are narcissistic. This percentage is high enough to require serious attention. This result is different from previous studies conducted in California. Research using NPI shows students of psychology counseling study programs do not experience narcissism (Clark 1991). In fact, narcissists do not show disturbing behavior, even most of them are able to socialize well (Kernberg 2004). On the other hand, the problem is dangerous, less closely related to aggression.

In an effort to gain recognition, narcissistic individuals will cover themselves with superior self-image. This self-image then became a façade that was so strong and seen as an identity (Campbell 2000, Lowen in Krajo 2007). The findings differ from Freud's view. Before that, Freud argued that narcissism generally arises in every individual when libido is a psychic energy invested in self-satisfaction so that there is an inability to invest it in others or for the benefit of others. This behavior that arises as a result of narcissism is seen as excessive self-love (Mollon 2004).

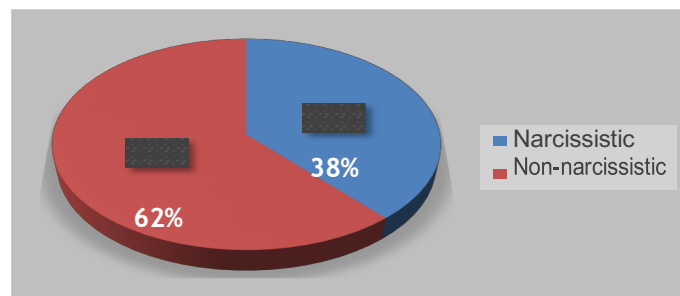


Figure 1. The proportion of narcissistic and non-narcissistic individuals

The narcissistic phenomenon in students, especially students is very important to get serious attention. Narcissists tend to be closely related to a lack of empathy (Kernberg 2004, Ritter et al., 2010) and have a low level of reality (Carr 2008). This is a challenge for counselors at universities to prepare guidance and counseling services at universities.

Conclusions and recommendations

The results showed that 38% of teacher students in Surabaya were narcissistic. The latest narcissistic view today is not just about excessive self-love, but rather an attempt to reject the individual's true identity. Narcissism is a very important personality to avoid especially for prospective teachers who are future teacher figures. Therefore, it is important that counseling interventions at the university level play a role in overcoming the problems experienced by students, especially narcissistic problems. Narcissistic problems that are quite large require counseling efforts with group settings and short models so that the intervention runs effectively and efficiently.

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