# MEDIATION EFFECT OF SOCIAL CAPITAL ON THE INFLUENCE OF INTERNET USING ON THE MORAL DEGRADATION OF TEENAGER

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Abstract

This articles is proposed the effect of social capital on the influence of internet using on the moral degradation of teenager. Social capital is believed to play a significant role on the effect of internet using on the teenager' moral degradation. It is proposed that coaching on teenager is essential at the beginning phase of teenager heading to the teenager orientation to their peers. Social entity plays a significant role to anticipate their teens moral degradation. Moral activities of teens are related to their social environment. Bridging moral typology is believed to minimize teenager moral degradation as an effect of internet using. This study is aimed to make a deeper understanding of the role of social capital on effects of internet using on teenager moral degradation. It would be useful for parents and teachers to make a moral learning for teens.

Keywords: social capital, internet using, moral degradation.

## INTRODUCTION

Each individual requires societies as a source of moral obligation and responsibility (Hidayat, 2014: 120). To create a moral society is needed community participation that requires individual to fulfill his moral duty. Along with the development of information technology and social change, the potential for moral violations increase. Likewise premarital sexual in teenagers, According to health ministry statistics of Republic Indonesia, the amount of premarital sexual in teenagers has increased from 2007 to 2012, the number of 4.1%. While the cause is a curious number of 57.5%, was forced by a pair of 12.6%, while the rest said they had done so only, (INFODATIN. 2015). According to Schaefer, technological development actually provokes the creation of various new types of crime, (Schaefer, 2005: 540) which means there are indications that the curiosity of teenager influenced by pornographic content on the internet which makes curious that he wants to do it with a partner of the opposite sex.

Information Technology is a base of technology that puts the processing of information, as ever internet (Bodnar and Hopwood, 1995). Various studies show that Internet has a lot to change people's lives (Dimagio. 2001). Including providing great opportunities in supporting various aspects of life (Cohendet, 2003). There are many positive and negative potential gotten from internet. Misra explained that the impact of information and communication technologies such as internet has potential for the emergence of a new category of excessive relationship (cyber-based overload) (Misra & Stokols, 2012). The emergence of excessive attitude in using the internet via laptops, smartphones and

computers. Kim (2009) Also defines the negative impact of internet for life, Kim explained regarding the negative impact toward the real social interaction called social offline contact.

Potential negatives impact for everyone, but the teenager phase is the most vulnerable phase in one's life. Adolescence is a phase where a person more trusting of their peers than their parents or teachers, (Field, 2011: 35). With such facts internet access provides answers to the "turmoil" of teenagers toward adult environment. Internet gives easy access for young people to communicate with their peers (Putri Ekasari, 2012). It potentially raises many problems in teenagers, as one example of the use of the internet makes the teenagers individual and fragmentation in the interaction in real life, (Valkenburg, 2001). Teenagers give priority to do on the internet and override social norms that have face-to-face communication (Putri Ekasari, 2012). Internet usage can also increase aggressive behavior and attitudes towards women, especially for those with aggressive tendencies due to exposure to pornography on the Internet (Allen & D'Alessio, 1995).

Psychological and behavioral changes of the teenager are the conclusion of exposure to a variety of content that can be accessed from the Internet. Teenagers process various Interpretations that they get from the internet without the directly assistance from the adults, finally create various wrong decision in the person of teenager. One of the main impacts is moral change in teenagers. To overcome this problem, young people need assistance from those who he can trust, not parents or teachers, but their peers and social environment.

Social capital offers concept for dealing with issues that infects people. As functioning and strengthening society participation in modern life (Fukuyama, 1999, in Hasbullah. 2006). Weak social capital will decrease the spirit of mutual assistance, exacerbate poverty, increase of unemployment, crime, and hinder effort to improve welfare of population (Hasbullah, 2006: 3). Powerful society will certainly easier to deal with any social issues, including moral issues in the teenager generation.

This paper will present theoretically the strategic position of social capital in society. Then the extent of social capital is theoretically able to accommodate the needs of the society in pressing moral degradation processes that occur in teenagers. Basically teenager social problem is a common problem, and social capital can rekindle role of society to build activeness toward the environment.

## LITERATURE REVIEW AND PROPOSITION

### *Moral degradation and Adolescence Phase*

Adolescence is a stage in one's life, it is between child and adult stage (Geldard, 2011: 6). It can be classified into two parts, namely 13-18 years old as the early teenager, and 18-22 years as late teenager, (Ali, 2006: 9-10). In general, teenagers develop the ability to be able to think critically and logically, using capacity to think logically is to make judgments and decisions for themselves. In this case the teenagers can be trained to improve their ability in critical thinking (Geldard, 2011: 13). Besides teenagers are not comfortable to live with silence, the awareness of silence make them try to establish relationship with others or try to find association (Ali, 2006: 9-10).

Unlike the previous opinion that divides the stages of adolescence into two phases. Based on psychosocial development, adolescence category is divided into three periods, early adolescence, middle adolescence, and lateadolescence (Krummel, et al 1996).

### Early adolescence (age 10-14 years)

Characteristics of early adolescence are experiencing physical and sexual growth spurt. Often, they compare something with peers and place great importance on acceptance by peers. In this case, they tend to ignore the influence that comes from the home environment.

### Middle adolescence (15-17 years old)

Middle adolescence has the characteristics item, namely the development of self-awareness, especially girls. They begin to notice the physical growth and have a body image growing tend to be wrong.

### Late adolescence (18-21 years old)

Late adolescence marked by maturity or readiness towards maturity stage and focus more on the future, both in the field of education, employment, sexual, and individual. Characteristics of late adolescence generally feel comfortable with her values and the influence of peers has begun to diminish.

Adolescence sex differences also lead to differences in behavior. Adolescence girls tend to have a deep level of intimacy with the people around them than adolescence boys. This is caused men tend to show their independence and their distance from the vicinity (Hurlock 1980). Social psychology explains that there are factors that can affect person's behavior, they are the personal factors and environmental factors (Rachmat 2002). In the case of moral degradation processes in teenagers, moral change occurred because of internal factors such as exposure to a variety of content available on the internet.

**Proposition 1. The pattern of mentoring oriented group of teenager should be conducted during the early teenager phase, it's because the nature of such typical teenager begin neglecting parents and more attention to their peers.**

According Gunarsa and Gunarsa (1995), the characteristics that stand out from adolescence is: Having emotional state instability, the rise of challenging and opposing others, Have an attitude to explore or a desire to explore the surrounding natural environment, has a lot of fantasy, delusion, and crap, adolescence tend to form a group. With that psychological condition tends to bring teenagers into various moral issues. Adolescence is a special time for the determination of the value, this period is a time of idealism, a sense of exclusive, hedonists, and moral degradation tendencies (Kosasih Djahiri. 1996: 28).

This fact needs to get attention by providing preventive education measures on the various possibilities for moral damages against teenager. According to Lilie (Asri Budiningsih, 2008: 24-25) the word of moral itself comes from 'mores' that has meaning

life ordinances or customs. Moral discuss action and human behavior from the perspective of good and bad. Paloutzian (2005) adds that religion is a moral guidance, how people should act in the midst of society. Moral is practical thing that judge acts committed by a person (Muka Sa'id, 1986: 23- 24). Adolescence who are Likely to have anti-social nature, and always right often acting contrary by the established standards of society, making branded as violators of norms and behavior deemed immoral.

Meanwhile, According to Aristoteles moralized-person is one who figures himself showing things such as: courage, simplicity, generosity, beauty, civilized, honest and fair (Kosasih Djahiri. 1996: 27). When someone performs controlling moral, he will be affected by a number of factors, such as: the symbols that exist inside himself, considering good and bad things , cost-benefit and risk, and the role of the family, (Kosasih Djahiri. 1996 : 28). This provision is contrary with what is in teenagers. Teenagers are less to have many considerations toward risk, good and bad. They have more care advice from their peers rather than parents.

**Proposition 2. Moral value is formed by society, people's desire toward behavior of its members, and demands of religious life. So people know most in the affairs to solve the problem of moral degradation in the group.**

In relation to religion, then again that religion is the moral guidelines for the followers (Paloutzian. 2005). In the Islamic concept, moral or noble character is the result of the implementation of all the provisions of Islam (sharia) constituted with a solid faith foundation (aqidah), a pious Muslim is a person who conduct all of the religious teachings (Marzuki, 2016). So, a religious person can be said to be good if he/she behave in accordance with the religious guidance.

Every society has its virtues and moral rules that regulate the life of society and individuals, or according to the formula of Montesque that every nation has the spirit as a nation, which is a worldview that determines the moral life of a nation (Michael Dua, in Andre Ata Ujan. 2011: 10). Moral behavior is not constant or static all the time, but rather the ups and downs depending on the circumstances (Kosasih Djahiri. 1996: 28). Thus, the moral values can adjust the needs of its members. According to Aguste Comte, moral habit arises from the social habits and continues to change along with the deeds in the community. Every moral law is different according to each people. Every moral philosophy is only valid for the atmosphere of civilization in which moral philosophy had appeared (Poespoprodjo, 1999:100).

Hazlitt defines a minor moral in terms of manners, or the finishing touches of the moral (Hazlitt. 2003:100), that good manners containing consideration for others. Manners contain meaning in distinction to others. People tried to treat others with a perfect respect, people are trying continuously to pay attention on the feelings of others (Emerson, dalam Hazlitt. 2003:100). Furthermore, Emerson said that monopolizing the conversation, talking too much, and boasting are bad manners. While good manners for the strong man is he who

succumb to the weak, healthy people succumb to the illness, and young people succumb to the elderly.

**Proposition 3. Moral action is only valid for a person if he is in the social environment because moral relates to the people assessment to the individual.**

**Proposition 4. Moral action in the perspective of religion is interpreted as a holistic measure. Moral action includes a relationship with God and the relationship with fellow human beings. So, the morality environment of an individual contains in two dimensions, namely spiritual dimension and social dimension.**

Someone can be said to have good moral when their actions in accordance with the wishes or values that exist in society. This requires a person to be able to behave in accordance manners in front of other people. Thus it can be said that the moral action only need to be undertaken in the social environment, when people face each other and interact. Nonetheless, moral action can become a habit if an individual often performs social contact, or social interaction with the surrounding community and moral action is meant to be institutionalized within oneself. When morality becomes a habit then one should not deliberately behave well when he wants to be judged by other people, or behave badly when no one else sees it.

To view or judge someone on moral behavior requires knowledge of the stages of moral development, it is important to be conducted so that the handling of the moral issues is on target. The stage of moral development is a pattern of development of the human psyche in internalize, personalize and develop and to comply with, carry out or make a choice, address or assess, or make moral values (Kosasih Djahiri, 1996: 45). According to Kohlberg's theory (Haditono, 2000: 171) a person's moral development occurs through six stages, divided into three levels, namely:

1. Pre-conventional level; is the stage that is able to respond physical rules, this level consists of two stages. Stage one, with the criteria of obeying to avoid punishment. Stage two, the children is a conformist to get the prize, to be regarded as good children.
2. Conventional level; is the stage of compliance that is based merely on fostering expectations or expected values of a person, group, or nation. So, compliance is based only on interpersonal concordance or interest to avoid censure and to favor others, as well as law and order orientation that is attitude conformity to avoid the punishment given for certain behaviors in life together.
3. Post conventional level; at this stage, an individual already has a clear basic obedience, has a certain moral principles or values as the foundation. At this stage, it also consists of two stages, namely; the first stage that conformity is carried out because people want to live together and to be arranged. The second stage, performing conformity not because of the orders of norms from the outside, instead of their own conviction to do it.

**Proposition 5. The moral state of an individual can be affected when the individual in the early teens, i.e. at the age of 10 years. Due to the phase of early adolescence, teens often compare something with peers and place great importance on acceptance by peers, and tend to ignore the influence that comes from the home environment.**

The early phases of moral development of an individual are the stage of mimic and responding to the physical actions perceived by the individual. At this stage were children younger than 10 years old, while at the stage of the subsequent development, the children receive social response, and consider all the things based on their existence to others. Therefore, the emerging trend of deviant moral or moral degradation in teenagers was possible only when the individual in the last phase of moral development or in the age group of 10 years old and older. A person's decision to act morally according to Peter is performed on two fundamental actions (Kosasih Djahiri. 1996: 47), namely;

1. Cognitive motivation aspects include the calculation of anticipatory risks arising from a decision, either for themselves or others.
2. Affective motivational aspects, is the calculation of emotional things that would be caused by that decision for themselves or others

While responding to the foundation stated by Peter, in his book, Kosasih explains that it is not always true and can be enforced. Kosasih proposes some other considerations on a person's decision to take moral action, including: 1) the condition includes the time, place and circumstances of self and individual environment who take the action; 2) The quality of the group and rank position of self when we are in a group; 3) Interest and qualities the related individual, such as psychological mental development that can be measured by parameters of age.

## THE STRATEGIC ROLE OF SOCIAL CAPITAL

According to Fukuyama in Suryono (2012: 68), social capital is a set of informal values or norms that spreads among the group members that allow cooperation among them. The cooperation can occur when the group members meet the expectations of each other. The mutual trust that others will behave reliably and have the honesty, then they will trust each other. Social capital is simply defined as a set of values or informal norms spontaneously divided among the members of a group that allows the establishment of cooperation among them (Fukuyama, 2010: 37-43). Fukuyama argues that they should lead to cooperation in groups and related to traditional virtues, such as: honesty; commitment; responsible for the work and norms, mutual reciprocity. Fukuyama also explains that social capital is impossible to be owned by individual moving above his/her own interests. Furthermore, Fukuyama explains that under certain condition, social capital can facilitate community the high degree of community innovation and adaptability of the community, (Fukuyama, 2010: 37-43) depending on the typology of social capital used by a community group.

Related to typology of social capital, Hasbullah explains that social capital is bound or bonding social capital has special characteristics in maintaining specific values which for generations has been a part of the code of conduct and moral conduct (code of ethics) of the group ( Hasbullah, 2006: 27). Bonding social capital emphasizes more on group cohesiveness as the main force of social capital, they are maintaining the values of the group, and are subject to the existing rules and morals. This model puts each individual clearly in their respective positions, whenever there is a discrepancy of members in this group then the individual is considered deviant.

The second typology is bridging social capital. Society is placed in the same position, the same rights and the same obligations; each group decision is taken on the agreement of each member of the group (Hasbullah, 2006: 30). In this typology, human values, respect for human rights as well as its members and other persons are the basic principle in the management of the group. With an open attitude of the group makes the group more easily achieve progress, because the traffic of growing exchange of ideas may affect the development of groups and individuals in the group. The Internet is one of the main triggers of the emergence of new ideas for the group, which enabled it to achieve progress. The use of the Internet provides great opportunities in various ways, such as to gain new relationships, get a better education, foster self-confidence, for hobby and innovate as well as a chance to get a job (Cohendet, 2003). If the group can accept the existence of an internet well, then the potential advancement of the internet can be obtained.

**Proposition 6. Typology of bridging social capital can minimize the potential of moral degradation in teenagers, it is because people tend to see the changes as a new idea, not merely as an aberration, such as social changes due to the use of the Internet that can be easily accepted if the public sees it as a progress.**

Thatcher conducted a research on the effects of social support and personal influence on the anxiety in using the Internet, with the result that the support of communities and leaders can dampen anxiety on the use of the internet (Thatcher D, B. et al.2007). This research indicates that the role of society affect on how the use of Internet by the community itself. According Hasbullah, community togetherness is the capital to achieve the purpose of improving the quality of life and constantly making changes and adjustments continuously (Hasbullah, 2006: 8). The existence of social capital can indirectly form a community of intelligent, capable of processing any developments wisely, and escort each member of the group well.

Social capital is a part of the community capital, which can be owned by everyone, but some people are unaware of the social capital in their surrounding environment. People who are unaware of the existence of social capital they have will not be able to develop it, in order to be useful to them. While if they are aware of a potential social capital in their environment, a social capital can be developed in order to have great benefits for the owners of capital.

People who are able to create social capital with large scale can open up the possibility for people to be able to more easily resolve the complexity of the problems. Social capital can increase mutual awareness about the possible opportunities that could be exploited by the group, and also the awareness that shared destiny is determined by actions taken together (Hasbullah, 2006: 39). According to Robert D Putnam, the existence of strong social capital in the community can provide a positive impact on the development of the child, such as the physical development of children, safety, learning achievements, and their mental situation is better than those who live in communities with lower quality of social capital (Putnam in Hasbullah, 2006).

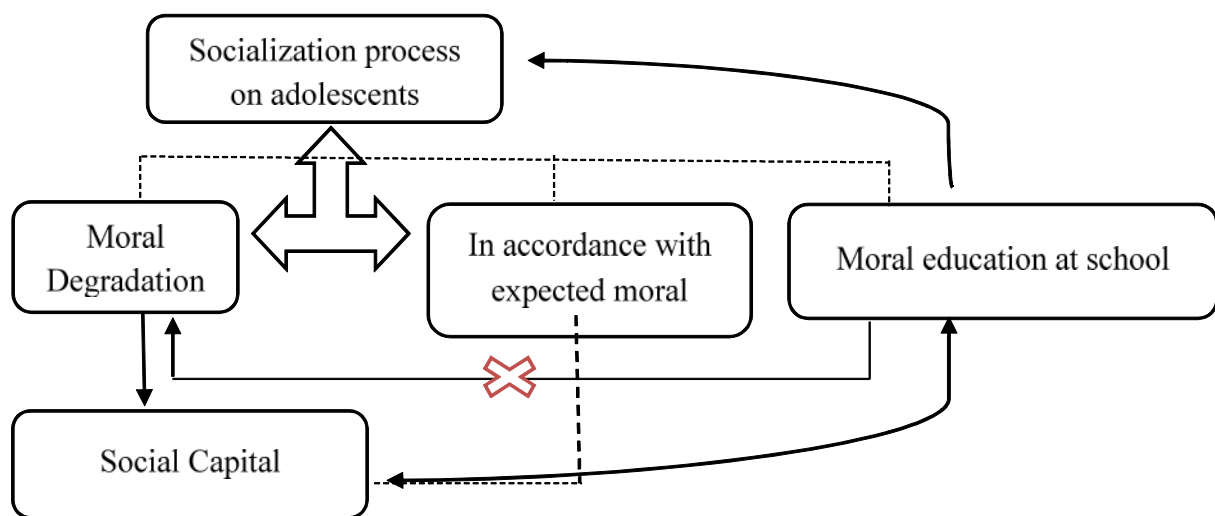### *Scheme of the strategic role of social capital*



Chart 1. The role of social capital in the flow of moral degradation in teenagers

The cause of moral degradation in teenagers is the impact of the socialization process carried out by teenager. In the process, socialization can also make teens to have morals expected by society or even moral degradation. There are many factors to make successful teenager socialization process, but there are also many factors that make it fail. One of the main factors driving the formation of good moral and the indication of moral success is a moral education provided by the school. Schools are one of the main institutions that are required to provide assistance to young people in shaping morale. In conducting moral education, the school should also pay attention on the role and the community, and the school must represent the needs of the community.

Social capital is able to develop the ability of communities to cope with various problems, such as ability to cope with social unrest or social problems (Hasbullah, 2006: 19). This capability can be knowledge and ideas or open attitude of society. For example, society in cooperation with the school, this is a strategic step that can be taken to provide moral education in teenagers. The new issues may arise when the schools and communities do not cooperate. Schools must obtain permission from the community to carry out its duties

provide moral education, and the community should show concern in responding to problems of moral problems in teenager.

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