# SELF CONCEPT OF FEMALE ADOLESCENTS OFFENDERS IN JUVENILE DETENTION CENTERS IN TANGERANG, INDONESIA

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#### **ABSTRACT**

As there is an increasing number of female adolescent prisoners and a high rate of recidivism, the knowledge of self-concept is crucial to work as a preventive factor. Therefore, the aim for this research is to investigate the self-concept of female adolescent prisoners. The research was directed in qualitative methodology. The interview procedure was directed with seven participants in two adolescent confinement centres in the city of Tangerang, Indonesia. Researchers found that female juvenile offenders are having negative self-concept from various aspects as they tend to view themselves negatively. Elements that contribute to these conditions include their relationship with significant others, such as guardians and companions, as well as the negative perception from the general public in regards to their status. The sentiment of blame and disgrace towards guardians, and cynicism concerning what's to come are the key factors that further impacted the negative self-concept. A few implications include avoiding the stigmas and labelling towards offenders, as well as increasing female offenders' well-being. For this study, researchers propose future study to explore the guardian's viewpoints.

Keywords: Female adolescent; Offenders; Self-concept; Juvenile detention centre; Indonesia

## INTRODUCTION

Teenage crime is no longer a surprising issue in society. For instance, in 2018, a 14-year old boy in Selangor was arrested for using an illegal substance. He was arrested in his school along with two of his peers, age 15 and 17 (Chan, 2018). Meanwhile, in Jakarta, a 17 year old girl has been arrested for running online prostitution (The Jakarta Post, 2019). Other than those cases, there are a lot of teenage crimes that have occurred until this day, and the number has been increasing by the years. As there are 3,479 teenage offenders registered in 2016 in Indonesia (Indonesia Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection, 2018).

Juveniles who have committed crime will be sent to juvenile detention centers. Juvenile detention centres can be defined as a jail or prison for minors (Snyder & Sickmund, 2006). It is a residing place for them for some time or detained on a short duration while waiting for trial or disposition in a long duration administration program. The court and prison system might be different from the adult court system. The difference might be derived from the rules applied in the particular country. In Indonesia, adolescent offenders will no longer reside in juvenile detention centres once they are not considered as minor (Indonesian Kids Profile, 2018). Juvenile detention centers in Indonesia have a different system from adult prisons. Adolescents in juvenile detention centers will not receive physical punishment or abusive behavior like which is done in adult prisons, juvenile offenders also have a shorter prison duration than adults who commit the same crime. It aims to protect the mental and physical health of children. Then, the juvenile detention center also provides education until high school for its residents which is not provided in adult prisons (Mardite, 2003).

Juvenile delinquents residing in juvenile detention centers are not in a good condition of well-being as they are in the important phase of development and separated from the social support (Kutcher & McDougall, 2009). For instance, female juvenile delinquents have been reported to have a higher tendency for developing major depressive disorder, panic disorder and anxiety (Lederman et al, 2004; Agram et al, 2003). Moreover, juvenile offenders are also undergoing turmoil in their lives, suffering from substance abuse problems as well as severe family and peer issues. Such problems

occur because the child isolates himself from society and positions him in disadvantages of the environment (Underwood & Washington, 2016).

Self-concept is one aspect that must be considered in discussing psychological well-being of offenders. Carl Rogers' philosophy and psychotherapeutic experience shows that self-concept plays an important part of human behavior. The important component of self concept is the real self and the ideal self. The real self is the perception of a person towards themselves, it might not be aligned with the visible characteristics, but it must feel genuine to the individual who perceived it. Whereas an ideal self is what a person wanted to be. The discrepancies between ideal self and the real self is the important component that builds an individual's self-concept (Ittyerah & Kumar, 2017). Changes in self-concept yield behavioral changes as well as increasing individuals' well-being (King, 2014). As for the prison environment, adequate self-concept is needed in order to develop a successful prison rehabilitation (Losel, 2010). Hence, the improvement of adolescent offenders' self-concept will enhance their well-being during the imprisonment period and reduce the recurrence of misconduct.

#### PROBLEM STATEMENT

Adolescent offenders are often given minimal both government and public attention. Many of them are struggling to maintain both physical and mental health throughout the prison duration (Kutcher & McDougall, 2009). This case is worse for female juvenile offenders as the female's experience of incarceration is significantly different from male's (Aborisade & Fayemi, 2016). In addition, according to Van Voorhis et al (2010), criminalized females who were reported with substance abuse, mental health issues, and involving in problematic relationships adapted poorly to the prison condition. These female prisoners will have higher probability to deliver misconduct during their detention. Therefore, correctional institutions have failed to achieve their missions.

One of the things that can be done to reduce recidivism and increase the effectiveness of prison is to build a positive self-concept. Self-concept provides a person's description of their own capabilities (Chetri, 2014). For instance, juvenile offenders who are involved in substance abuse have low self-capability to do desirable conduct, indicating that they have developed a negative self-concept.(Usan & Salavera, 2017). Self-concept consists of several dimensions, such as perceptions of physical appearance and health, self-worth in social interactions, perceptions of emotional conditions, academic skills, moral worth and problem solving capacity (Saraswat, 1984). Individuals who develop a positive self-concept will have good perceptions in the regards of these dimensions. Adolescents with a positive self-concept will believe that they deserve the best life and confident to do desirable behavior, which in turn will prevent them from conducting crimes (Rohany et al, 2011).

As far as the concern of self concept of offenders, up until these days, juvenile offenders' regulations and procedures have concentrated on male offenders. This leads to an abundant amount of research that concentrates on adolescent males offenders (Teplin et al, 2003). It happens due to violence cases being done more by male rather than female (Cauffman, 2008). Although female adolescent offenders are a minority in the juvenile law system, researchers believe that they are entitled to equal treatment and attention. The physical and mental health of offenders is generally lower than the non-incarcerated human population, while the welfare of female juvenile offenders has been neglected in a prison environment that is dominated and focused on male prisoners (Bastick & Townhead, 2012). As the self-concept was one of the indicators of teenage crime and well-being, it is crucial to look into the self-concept as a way to minimize recidivism and increase the positive self-capabilities. Thus, a research that focuses on self-concept of female adolescent offenders, will be a tool to provide comprehensive information to the public.

This is the first research that explores the self-concept of juvenile delinquents specifically female adolescent offenders. Therefore, this research will provide a meaningful insight to the mental health worker in the law enforcement institutions. The knowledge from this research also will provide contribution in the field of counseling, social and developmental psychology.

#### **METHODOLOGY**

Qualitative research with a phenomenological design was conducted to meet the objectives of this study in the city of Tangerang, Jakarta, Indonesia. Total seven female juvenile offenders participated in this study. Interviews were conducted in private rooms at two juvenile detention centers in Tangerang, Indonesia. Before the interview process began, researchers provided informed consent which needed to be signed by the informants and prison officers. The interview results were also recorded with the permission of the informants and officers. After conducting the interview, the results of the interview were converted into transcripts, henceforth translated into English. The transcripts were then double-checked by three independent bilinguals who were fluent in English and Indonesian to avoid errors in translation.

According to Creswell (1998), the sample size necessary ranged from five to 25 participants for the phenomenological study. This quantity should be adequate to denote the whole population. The sample was selected based on the criteria that have been set as well as a recommendation from the prison administrator on duty. The data collection process was conducted in the X and Y juvenile detention centre. Offenders in X juvenile detention centre consists of female adolescent offenders, whereas Y juvenile detention centre accommodates both male adolescent offenders and female adolescent offenders. According to Yulianto and Ernis (2016), there are adolescents who have trouble with the law and do not receive proper coaching from both the centers. In addition, X juvenile detention center is the fusion of teenage and adolescent male offenders, while Y detention center is currently merging teenage female offenders and female adult offenders. In addition, both juvenile detention centers are the only detention centers for minors who dealt with adolescents with various cases of crime in the capital area.

Informants recruited were female adolescents between the age of 12 to 17 years old. Besides that, the informants are offenders that have been judged to reside in a juvenile detention centre for the duration that has been appointed. Each interview question was supported by various theories of self-concept. Afterwards, the pilot study was conducted with one participant as a trial run for the interview process. The criteria for participating in the pilot study will be the same as criteria for the actual study. The report of pilot study will include the feedback of the interview session. It checked whether informants have full understanding of the questions asked. Furthermore, it aims to check whether an informant finds the questions sensitive or uncomfortable to answer. If we find some problem in the question, the researcher will revise the questions before conducting the actual study.

As for the acknowledgement of ethical considerations. There are several steps to be taken such as (a) informed consent will be given to participants and prison administrators prior the interview. The informed consent states the benefits and potential risks of research, the protection of anonymity as well as options for the withdrawal; (b) the name of the informant and the name of a juvenile detention center will not be revealed to ensure the confidentiality of information. Hence, pseudonyms will be declared throughout the study, and (c) researchers will consult with supervisors throughout the process of sample collection and analysis. Therefore, this procedure will provide researchers with the appropriate competence to be applied in an interview and reduce the likelihood of false interpretations.

After having the interview results in the form of a transcript, researchers conducted a thematic analysis. Thematic analysis is the process of digesting information from interviews through open and axial coding (Braun & Clark, 2006). The first step in conducting thematic analysis is to read the transcript repeatedly to have a better understanding of the data. Then, researchers develop the initial codes. This process is done by obtaining the original codes from the open coding and axial coding processes. After that, researchers will look for the appropriate themes. While looking for general and relevant themes, researchers continue to review the transcript to ensure that the themes given truly represent the research results. Then, the last step is to make a statement for each theme (Braun & Clark, 2006).

#### **RESULTS**

Seven female juvenile offenders aged between 13 to 17 were interviewed for this study. All of the informants are coming from various backgrounds, however all of them were working before they got into prison. Informants were in various educational backgrounds, with three of the informants are in middle school, whereas the rest are in high school. Informants are having various reasons for being incarcerated. Three of the informants imprisoned due to murder case, one informants were incarcerated due to witnessing murder whereas three of the informants were jailed due to stealing and conducting online prostitution. Regarding the prison duration, all of the informants were in jail for less than a year.

## Self-concept of female adolescent offenders in the juvenile detention center

Based on the interview, female adolescent offenders are experiencing negative self-concept from various ways such as (a) feel undeserving and sinful; (b) unable to meet the social beauty standard; (c) having no worth in the social interaction; (d) problems with education matters; (e) experiencing negative temperamental characteristics; (f) feeling far from the ideal condition; and (g) pessimism about the future.

#### a. Feel undeserving and sinful

Most of the participants reported that they feel undeserving and sinful. They perceived themselves as a burden to their family and having an incapability to please their parents. Furthermore, they are ashamed of the misconduct they did, hence they felt deserved to be jailed. As mentioned by informant one "I feel ashamed because I'm an inmate, no one is proud of going to jail. I feel bad and guilty for what I have done to break my parents' trust. So right now I am carrying my sins..."Also mentioned by informant three:

I am a bad person, because of killing my own child, it was a big mistake, and people already know about it, they say I'm a villain... my parents must be sad about some annoying neighbors. They like to cry when they talk about it. I know it is heavy for them (Informant 3).

## b. Unable to meet the social beauty standard and no worth in social interaction

Concerning the perception of bodily appearance, most of the informers feel incapable to fit in the standard of attractiveness. Informants feel not beautiful and have many physical inadequacies. They are unable to assure themselves and need other people's affirmations on their physical worth. This expression is declared by informant two "Well, a beautiful person is a pale one, just perfect. But in my opinion, I'm not pretty because I am different from other people, there are many shortcomings". Another statement by informant five also supported this expression, such as "I don't know if I'm beautiful or not because the thing is that I have no right to judge myself. However, for now I don't think I am pretty like beauty was expressed from the heart, but I am a prisoners.."

# c. Having no worth in social interaction

Besides, most of the informants sense like they have no value in social communication. This has been displayed by the feeling of being not special or more specifically having no special qualities to be proud of. This condition makes them less confident to interact, which then lead to having fewer friends as stated by informant seven:

I rarely communicate with my friends, and they also don't care. Well, my friends who are outside as well as my neighbors also know that I am here. Yeah, they like making fun of me out there. Everyone already knows because I was on TV. All those who don't like me must be making fun of me (Informant 7).

#### d. Having problems with education matters

Most of the informants have been getting their education from both inside and outside the juvenile detention centers. However, they consider themselves to have difficulties with the materials being taught in school, as mentioned by informant six "Nothing. It seems like I don't have anything special.

Average. The thing is I'm not the one who stands out. Also, when I was at school, I wasn't that smart". In addition, they perceived themselves as inadequate to learn a few subjects such as math and technology, as perceived by informant five "honestly I don't feel like I am having good achievement in school both outside and inside the prison. Both my mother and father scold me a lot regarding my marks before".

## e. Having negative temperamental characteristics

Additionally, most of the interviewee define themselves as a person with numerous undesirable characteristics. For instance, they believe that they are self-centered, uncontrollable, indolent and easily feel irritated as mentioned by informant one "I am a bad person, because of killing my child". This brings to conclusions they are having problems in managing irritation and resolving their pent up anger. For example, an informant also stated that "I'm an easily angry person; I get offended quickly from people's words, I'm easily offended. I will say what I'm supposed to not say. I fight with my opponent in the end"

# f. Feeling far from the ideal condition

Interviewee feel that their existing situations are vastly different from the perfect circumstances they dreamt of. Stating that they have dreams to attain, such as having an ideal job or pleasing their parents, however, the present situations are preventing them from reaching their goals. Therefore, informants also have no confidence to deal with whatever problems arise in the future. They feel rejected and frightened if they will never get a desirable look from society which leads them to feel cynical about the future. This statement is shown by expression from informant two:

I worry every day, like how about my family, whether they still want to accept me after my duration. What will I become later? I am afraid that I won't be able to go to school or work because I've been in prison before (Informant 2).

## g. Pessimism about the future

Female juvenile offenders feel clueless about what they want to be, believe that they lack competence and have a burden for a lifetime due to the criminal record, mentioned by informant four "The problem is that all people also know about what happened already, so what should I do, I feel ashamed. They think of me as someone who did wrong things" Therefore, they perceive themselves to have an undesirable future and choose to not care about it. As informant five mentioned that "I don't know. I just go with whatever comes to me... I am in trouble; people will say I am a bad person, so no one wants to marry me. I just choose not to think about it."

In conclusion, this section has shown the interview results with seven female juvenile offenders and has argued that informants are having some negative self-perception. The next part of this paper will discuss this topic in further detail.

## **DISCUSSION**

As mentioned by the previous section, female juvenile offenders have negative self-concepts from several aspects. In this section, the discussion will be divided based on the theme of some of these aspects. This topic can best be treated under three sub topics: (a) feeling unworthy and evil; (b) perception of personal characteristics; (c) discrepancies from the ideal conditions; (d) pessimism about the future; and (e) the feeling of guilt.

# Feeling unworthy and evil

It is a huge disappointment to female juvenile offenders' parents that their daughter is in prison. Imprisonments cause girls to resign from their jobs and being unable to contribute to the family financial situation and bring unhappiness to their parents. Because of this, the parents need to work harder for household bills and transportation fees to visit them in prison. Besides, these parents still have to be responsible for their daughters in prison. This caused the female juvenile offenders to think

negatively. Tatar, Kaasa & Cauffman (2012) found that female juvenile offenders feel shameful and believe that they deserve to be in prison. Baer and Maschi (2003) stated that young offenders often feel they are not worthy. In particular, female adolescent offenders as they often feel unworthy, ashamed and believe they deserve to have their sentence. Moreover, according to Arnold (2013) when a member of the working families being imprisoned, he often brings financial issues to the family who often brings feelings of guilt and unease. As parents are considered as significant others for juvenile offenders, being incarcerated made their presence become burdens to the family condition. They see themselves as an individual that is unable to be proud of and independent because their parents need to work harder for them. This feeling makes them feel insecure, which will develop shame and guilt.

Other than that, female adolescent offenders referenced that they are having negative temperamental characteristics. Believing that they like to argue and fight with their parents, apathetic and likes to revolt. Some female adolescent offenders are fleeing from home because of conflict with their guardians, while some of them are dropped out of school because of wrongdoings. These findings are steady with past research, expressing that most teenagers are detained because of their failure to control their outrage and unable to perform critical thinking (Goldstein et al, 2013). Anger management issue has been one of the viewpoints that adds to adolescent detainment (Goldstein et al, 2007; Ireland, 2004). Since guardians are one of the most notable individuals for youths, negative conduct towards guardians is a significant perspective for the teenager to see themselves. From their attitude to guardians, female detainees accept they experience issues in critical thinking and managing their anger. Terrible perspectives on their characters cause them to feel unfit to change and develop positive improvement.

# **Perception of personal characteristics**

Inmates are depicting themselves as an individual with the absence of various positive characteristics. For instance, regarding physical appearance, they perceived beautiful girls as pale, tall, having a decent character and keen, while they thought that they are nowhere near those measures. They said that people seldom applaud their physical appearances. There are two reasons why they may feel they are not physically appealing. To start with, there is constrained access to a good beauty treatment in the jail. Fema offenders are not permitted to do a skin treatment nor bring make up items inside the jail. This is in line with a finding from Lindsay (2015), which stated that female offenders, in general, have negative self-perception because of the troubles to control the sound nourishment admission, fewer exercises and limited to contact with a male. Second, as females are relied upon to express nurturing conduct, carrying out wrongdoing will be a stark contrast of those and it makes them feel manly and not beautiful. A study by Brennan (2009) expressed that female prisoners are regularly marked as a lady with a manly component, both physically and character. Detainees typically portrayed the wrongdoing they have done as somewhat related to manly conduct. Being attractive is a significant aspect for females; it is not a special case for female adolescent offenders. Being in a place where the utilization of cosmetics instruments is restricted, making them feel incapable to do what they need to do to be beautiful. At that point, the presumption that crime is a movement that is frequently completed by men makes female adolescent offenders not see their ladylike side and feels not pretty. This sentiment of being not excellent makes a decline in self-concept.

Moreover, before they are imprisoned, female adolescent offenders are experiencing issues to blend in the group and rarely go out with their peers. While in jail, they seldom have a close companion since they believe that they cannot confide in anybody. This shows that they decide to limit themselves from building social cooperation. This outcome is reliable with past research expressed that offenders will pull back from general society and create challenges to coexist with individuals around them (Hussein et al, 2017; Greer, 2000). Challenges in building up kinships in female adolescent offenders may result from lost self-assurance. Since the status of an individual turns into a detainee, they accept that they are in a lower position than others. Combined with network disgrace, they progressively accept that they can't change the circumstance. Because of the sentiment of deficiency, they lose the certainty to set up positive associations with others and decide to pull back from the network. At that point, because different detainees who were in jail were not individuals they knew, doubt started to develop. This makes them have fewer dear companions in jail during their imprisonment period.

In addition, regarding academic achievement, female adolescent prisoners believe that they don't have a noteworthy scholarly accomplishment in school. Some particular school subjects, for example, arithmetic and technology are incorporated as their shortcomings. There is a couple of past research that shows a connection between low scholastic accomplishment and adolescent criminal conduct (Wang & Fredricks, 2014; Hoffmann, Erickson, & Spence, 2012). Female adolescent offenders go to school both before and after imprisonment. Nonetheless, they believe themselves to be people who have low scholarly capacity, both when they go to class in jail or outside the jail. This shows they are having poor scholarly or academic self-ideas. Low scholastic self-idea makes an individual not perceive their potential and capacities. Adolescents' numbness of their potential will affect self-dismissal and misconduct. Due to the importance of academic achievement for adolescents, negative perceptions of academic capability can be a reason why female adolescent offenders believe that they don't have the capacity to achieve better remarks. Therefore, in the end they tend to commit acts of recidivism once they get out of prison.

## Discrepancies from the ideal conditions

Female adolescent offenders believe that they are not in the step to accomplish their objectives. The perfect condition depicted includes being discharged from jail, enrolling in college, having a dream job, being monetarily steady and pleasing their parents. However, being in jail made them not ready to work for their education bills. Additionally, because of the criminal record they have, it is hard to achieve ideal life conditions after their discharge. This finding is aligned with research from Kasiri et al (2019) that adolescent offenders are feeling guilty; hence they have a major error between the ideal self and the real self. Most adolescents believe that they have made an agony and hurt their parents as a result of their choice (VanderPyl, 2018). Being in jail also carries weaknesses to find a perfect occupation due to the disgrace and stigma from the general public, feeling unfit to succeed adds disappointment, disgrace and humiliation (Ray, Grommon, & Ryberg, 2016; Chui & Cheng, 2013). The objectives to be an effective individual with their ideal occupations, being married and devoted to their parents are stopped with their present conditions.

Moreover, being a detainee implies that they need to face the negative labeling from the community. Currently, society implies prisoners as the villains, whereas labelling their families as unable to nurture and giving proper guidance. The combination between sentiments of inability to develop an ideal life and satisfying their parents has assembled incongruence between the ideal self and real self. There has been analysis that found stigma and unpleasant feedback from the community built the self-label and sense of despair (Tewksbury, 2012; Moore, Tangney, & Stuewig, 2011). Feedback in the form of stigmas will influence an individual's self-concept in a negative way (Shiley, 2012). This decrease in self-concept is shown within the feelings of hopeless and helpless.

#### Pessimism about the future

Juvenile offenders believe that they lack important life skills and having a burden for life. Therefore, they believe that they are incapable of achieving the ideal life they wanted. This shows that they tend to give up on planning their life, expressed by how they have no set up of what they're going to do once they are discharged from the juvenile detention center. This showed that offenders are having a negative self-concept, as individuals with the negative self-concept have a cognitive distortion that makes them feel helpless (Rohany et al, 2011). This feeling comes from the effect of detainment itself, even though the duration of detention might vary, the results of imprisonment will last for life. Once the community has stigmatized the prisoners, offenders will face some difficulties in obtaining the ideal life. Imagining how troublesome it's to settle down makes them afraid to wish for a better life.

# The feeling of guilt

They accept that they have committed a major mistake and being in a period where they are bearing their sins. In any case, they depict themselves as a decent individual when referenced with the crime they did. They accept they did the crime due to external factors, such as being troublesome due to certain circumstances, joining a wrong social circle and the issue of the victims. This outcome is steady with past research that adolescent offenders in detainment doesn't develop dissatisfaction and

regret (Koiv, 2017) just as misery (Plattner et al., 2007). They are increasingly inclined to blame (Broidy et al, 2003) just as a disgrace (Schalkwijk et al, 2014) this happened to the significant level of sympathy communicated by the female. Female juvenile offenders accept that they have disregarded the virtues by perpetrating crimes. In any case, the guilt and shame originates from how they made their parents and families in a difficult situation after they were in jail, not from what they did to their victims. It's because from the crime they did, it has brought misfortune to the families such as negative stigma from other community members to the lack of financial support. This idea is an impression of poor self-concept. They reprimand themselves which leads them to disappointment and sentiments of deficiency. In this manner, they lose their chance to improve.

Female adolescent inmates show a lot of negative characteristics, for example, "incapable to make my mother and father pleased", "having awful outrage" or "terrible in arithmetic". In any case, it is difficult for them to name their qualities. They expressed that they don't recognize their positive qualities. They can name their positive characteristics, for example, "I can make some fashion accessories" and "I won the dance competition in my school" after different inciting questions. This behavior indicates the existence of negative self-concept. Individuals with negative self-concept have poor perspectives and information about themselves. What they perceived to be useless is contrasted with what is acquired by others. As indicated by several studies (Chetri, 2014; Nizami, 2010; Sanamejad et al, 2011) a great extent of the self-concept includes a self-assessment that precisely portrays an individual quality and shortcoming.

# **Implications**

Based on the discussions, there are several implications that we can implement from this study. First, as self-concept is strongly related to feedback from society, people need to avoid negative labelling to the offenders. Instead, giving them another chance to function will help enhance their self-worth which will lead them to be productive individuals to the community. One way that can be done is providing employment for ex-offenders, so that prisoners will feel valued and productive. This way, they are able realize their aspirations and support their families financially. Second, it is important for prison administrators to improve the quality of education. Education is an important pathway in changing the perceptions and self-confidence in adolescents, therefore prison administrators need to collaborate with local universities to provide higher levels of education to prisoners. In addition to providing prisoners with new experiences and enhancing academic self-concept, attending lectures will prepare them to face the working demands while gaining new perspectives on the world. Third, having a psychologist or counsellor on duty in the prison will be helpful to support the improvement of self-concept. The presence of a counsellor or psychologist in prison can be a means to reduce psychological disorders often experienced by prisoners such as depression and anxiety. Psychologists or counsellors are also able to provide psychoeducation to juvenile offenders about the realistic expectation of what they will face once they discharge therefore they are ready to face life outside of the prison. Lastly, because parents hold the most important role for juvenile offenders, parents need to be honest and forgive their children. If parents find it difficult to accept the situation or forgive their children who are in prison, it would be better if a psychologist or counsellors can help them deal with these feelings. Parents also need to show concern so that juvenile offenders do not feel failed and lonely. One way that parents can do is to support juvenile offenders is by visiting them regularly. Henceforth, juvenile offenders have a sense of belonging to their families which ultimately makes them feel valued.

Our research has provided information regarding the self-concept of female adolescent offenders. However, our research has several limitations. Due to the geographical limitations of this research, the results obtained might differ from samples from other countries due to the influence of culture and society on the development of self-concepts. Therefore, researchers suggest future research to investigate the self-concept of female adolescent offenders in other areas to get more global results. In addition, future research regarding parents of incarcerated adolescents are needed to get another point of view on juvenile incarceration. Researchers realize that the self-concept of female adolescent offenders is highly dependent on parents' judgment. Therefore, providing research from the perspective of parents will be very useful to complement knowledge regarding the self-concept of female adolescent offenders.

## **CONCLUSION**

Thus far, the thesis has argued that female juvenile offenders are having a negative self-concept from physical appearance, moral perception, social interaction, academic achievement, and emotional aspects. There is a big gap between the ideal self and the current self. This condition makes them not believe in their future and lack of confidence to face society. This negative self-concept occurs because of the negative stigma from the public regarding prisoners so that they do not get the chance to become productive individuals. Then, feelings of guilt towards parents also contribute to negative self-concept. Negative self-concept can ultimately increase recidivism so that education is needed to the community about the effects of their stigma and forgiveness from parents to give female juvenile offenders confidence in themselves that they are capable of achieving the ideal life they desire.

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