

The Relationship between Assertiveness and Tendency to Experience Dating Violence in Early Adulthood in Makassar City

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Abstract: Dating violence is a problem that often occurs in early adult dating relationships. This study aims to determine the relationship between assertiveness and the tendency to experience dating violence in early adulthood in Makassar City. This research uses quantitative methods. Respondents in the study were 224 early adults who experienced violence in dating relationships in Makassar City. Data sampled using accidental sampling technique. The measurement tools used are the assertiveness scale and the dating violence scale which were compiled by the researchers themselves. The results of the hypothesis test in this study used the Spearman rho test with the result $r = -0.675$ with $p = 0.000$. These results indicate that there was a significant negative relationship between assertiveness and the tendency to experience dating violence in early adulthood in Makassar City. The implication of this research was to become a source of reference information in making psychoeducation to prevent violence in early adulthood who are dating.

1 INTRODUCTION

Early adulthood is a period of transition from adolescence to adulthood with an age range of 18 to 40 years, where there are developmental tasks such as getting a job, choosing a mate, learning to form a family, and the task of joining a community group (Hurlock, 2010). Adulthood is a time when individuals begin to look for and choose a life partner to getting married. Before that, individuals will learn to recognize each other. One way that can we do to get to know a partner is by dating.

Dating according to Miller and Clark (2010) is a relationship between individuals with the aim of getting to know each other before proceeding to marriage. During this time, individuals will learn to recognize their partner's personality, learn to love and understand each other, and consider forming a joint commitment. Wolfe and Temple (2018) propose that in dating relationships there is an intimacy that is used as the basis for adult relationships. Intimacy in dating relationships will cause a strong emotional bond to emerge between individuals so as to create a sense of belonging to one another. According to Sternberg (Meinarno & Sarwono, 2018) intimacy is an emotional closeness that causes individuals to open, understand, respect, support, and trust partners.

Facts that occur in society, dating relationships are not always filled with beautiful things. The process of identifying individuals with different personalities and habits often creates conflict in relationships. In solving problems in relationships also vary, including individuals who choose violence. Dating violence according to Murray (2001) is a tactic of violence and physical pressure that is intentionally carried out by the perpetrator with the aim of maintaining power or control over the partner. Aspects of dating violence are verbal and emotional violence, physical violence, and sexual violence.

The National Commission on Violence Against Women (Komnas Perempuan, 2019, 2020, 2021) reports that cases of dating violence are cases of violence that still occur frequently. Details of cases from 2018 to 2021 are as follows: in 2018 there were 2,073 cases, in 2019 there were 1,815 cases, in 2020 there were 1,309, and in 2021 there were 813 cases of violence perpetrated by ex-boyfriends and 802 cases of violence perpetrated by girlfriends. The dating violence data above is also supported by preliminary data found by researchers by distributing questionnaires online to 64 respondents who are or have had dating relationships in Makassar city. The data shows that 59 respondents said they had experienced dating violence, while 5 respondents said they had never experienced dating violence. The

intensity of violence experienced showed that 29 respondents (45%) experienced violence more than 10 times, 12 respondents (19%) experienced violence 4-10 times, and 18 respondents (28%) experienced violence 1-3 times.

Violence in dating occurs due to various external and internal factors. Wahyuni, et al. (2020) conducted research related to the factors causing dating violence in 9 students who were victims of dating violence. The results of the study revealed that external factors such as the influence of the social environment, the influence of the place where the violence occurred, and the influence of patriarchal culture, while internal factors, namely individual personality such as low self-esteem, and the victim's dependence on his partner. Sari's research (2018) on female victims of dating violence who are students reveals that the victim's dependence on a partner causes the victim to continue to maintain the relationship so that there is a tendency to always obey the partner's wishes. This makes the victim willing to accept and not react to save themselves when they get violent behavior.

The above research is in accordance with the early data found by researchers that the intensity of repeated violence experienced by respondents because the response given was in the form of hiding feelings when getting violence by as many as 26 respondents (40%), against as many as 14 respondents (22%), feeling helpless as many as 14 respondents (22%), and chose silence as many as 5 respondents (8%). The behavior of victims who are willing to accept and not refuse is an aspect of low assertiveness. Assertiveness is an effort to defend individual rights and express what is felt and wanted by expressing it directly and honestly but still respecting the rights of others (Safruddin, et al., 2018). Aspects of assertiveness according to Alberti and Emmons (2017) are expressing feelings honestly and comfortably, acting based on self-interest and needs, exercising personal rights, applying equality in human relations, respecting the rights of others, and defending oneself.

Previous research conducted by Syafira and Kustanti (2017) using qualitative methods showed that the lack of assertiveness in dating relationships resulted in respondents continuing to experience violence by their partners. This is because the victim is unable to express his discomfort, prefers to be silent and succumbs to the treatment of his partner, and is unable to end the relationship he is in. Based on this, the research aims to determine whether there is a relationship between assertiveness and the tendency to experience Dating Violence in early adulthood in Makassar City?

2 METHODS

2.1 Participant

There were 224 participants in this study who had the criteria of early adulthood aged 18 – 28 years, experienced violence in dating relationships, and lived in Makassar. The sampling method uses a non-probability sampling technique with an accidental sampling technique model. Participant demographic data is presented in the following table.

Table 1. Participant demographic data.

Characteristic category		N
Age	18 years	4
	19 years	4
	20 years	44
	21 years	44
	22 years	58
	23 years	39
	24 years	9
	25 years	8
	26 years	6
	27 years	7
	28 years	1
Gender	Woman	141
	Man	83
Relationship Duration	Under 3 months	23
	3 – 6 months	34
	6 months – 1 year	43
	1 – 2 years old	36
	Over 2 years	88

2.2 Measure

This research is a type of quantitative research with data collection techniques using a scale type questionnaire. The scale used is the assertiveness scale and the courtship violence scale which was made by the researcher himself. On each scale there are 5 alternative answers ranging from very appropriate to not in accordance with the subject's own condition.

The assertiveness scale is used to measure the level of assertiveness in early adulthood who are in a dating relationship. There are 21 items in this scale with a Cronbach alpha reliability value of 0.951. The courtship violence scale is used to measure the tendency to experience violence in early adulthood who are in a dating relationship. On this scale there are 24 items with a Cronbach alpha value of 0.910.

2.3 Data Analysis

The hypothesis test used in this study is the analysis of the Spearman Rho test with the help of SPSS software for Windows 25.0. Sugiyono (2013) suggests that the hypothesis is a temporary answer to a research statement. The researcher conducted an additional analysis in order to test differences in the level of assertiveness and dating violence based on gender by using the Mann Whitney U-Test. Rangkuti (2017) argued that the Mann Whitney U-Test is a hypothesis test on data that is not normally distributed (non-parametric) and comes from two different groups.

3 RESULTS

Based on the results of the assertiveness analysis of the respondents, it was found that as many as 9 (4.02%) of the respondents were categorized as having low assertiveness consisting of 3 men and 6 women, as many as 155 (69.20%) had moderate assertiveness consisting of 61 men and 97 women, and as many as 60 (26.79%) respondents had high assertiveness consisting of 25 men and 38 women. Based on the data, it can be concluded that respondents have moderate assertiveness, both in men and women.

The results of the analysis of dating violence found that there were 139 (62.05%) respondents who experienced dating violence in the low category consisting of 45 men and 94 women, 58 (25.89%) respondents experienced dating violence in the moderate category consisting of 32 men and 26 women, 27 (12.05%) respondents experienced dating violence with a high category consisting of 6 men and 27 women. Data on courtship violence on men and women can be concluded to be in the low category. Then do the hypothesis test which is presented in the following table.

Table 2. Spearman rho hypothesis test results

Variable	R	p-value
Assertiveness	-0,675	0,000**
Dating Violence		

*p < 0,05; **p < 0,01; ***p < 0,001.

The results of the hypothesis test in the table show that the result is p = 0.000 (p < 0.005), so it can be concluded that the hypothesis is accepted. The results of the hypothesis test show that there is a significant relationship between assertiveness and the tendency

to experience dating violence in early adulthood in Makassar City. The table above also shows that the correlation coefficient value is -0.675, so it can be concluded that the correlation between the two variables has a significant negative relationship.

The researcher conducted an additional test to find out the data comparison of assertiveness and dating violence based on the gender of the respondent. The comparative test used by the researcher was the Mann Whitney U-Test using the SPSS 25.0. The results of the comparative analysis can be seen in the table below.

Table 3: Table of comparison of assertiveness and dating violence by gender

Variable	Gender	Mean Rank	p-value
Assertiveness			
Dating Violence	-0,675	0,000**	Significant

The table above shows that the average value of male assertiveness is smaller (M = 108.58) when compared to the average value of female assertiveness (M = 114.81). However, there was no significant difference between male and female assertiveness (p = 0.487 > 0.05). So it can be concluded that there is no significant difference in the level of assertiveness between men and women. In addition, the table above also shows that the average value of dating violence in men is higher (M = 117.51) when compared to women (M = 109.55). Based on the results of the analysis, there was no significant difference between dating violence for both men and women (p = 0.375 > 0.05). So it can be concluded that there is no significant difference in the level of dating violence between women and men. Next, the researcher conducted further analysis using the cross tabulation test to see the frequency of each aspect of the dating violence variable.

Table 4: Cross tabulation test results between gender and aspects of courtship violence

Gender	Aspects of Violence			Total
	Verbal and Emotional Violence	Physical abuse	Sexual Violence	
Men	26	29	28	83
Woman	61	33	47	141

Based on the table above, it is known that the aspect of dating violence that has the highest frequency among men is the aspect of physical violence, namely 29 (12.9%) respondents. The aspect of courtship violence with the highest frequency among women is the aspect of verbal and emotional

violence, which is equal to 61 (43.3%) of respondents. Based on this, it can be concluded that men tend to experience physical violence while women tend to experience verbal and emotional violence.

4 DISCUSSION

The purpose of this study was to find out whether there is a relationship between assertiveness and the tendency to experience dating violence in early adulthood in the city of Makassar. The results of hypothesis testing in this study used the Spearman rho test with the help of the SPSS 25.0 application. The results of the hypothesis test showed a correlation between assertiveness and courtship violence $r = -0.675$ with a significance of 0.000 ($p < 0.05$). From these data it can be concluded that the hypothesis is accepted that there is a relationship between assertiveness and dating violence. The value of the correlation coefficient also indicates that there is a negative relationship between assertiveness and dating violence, the higher the assertiveness, the lower the dating violence. Conversely, the lower the assertiveness, the higher the dating violence.

The results of this study are in line with previous research conducted by Diadiningrum and Endrijati (2014) which showed that the significance value of assertiveness and dating violence in adolescents was 0.015 so there was a relationship between the two variables. Another study was also stated by Pratita and Herdiana (2022) that the results of the correlation test were ($r = -0.199$, $p = 0.043$), so that there was a significant relationship between assertiveness and dating violence in early adult women. The results of the correlation coefficient show a negative value so that there is a negative relationship between assertiveness and dating violence in early adult women, where the higher the assertiveness, the lower the violence in dating.

Noonan and Erickson (2020) propose that assertiveness is the ability to express desires, needs, and feelings while respecting others even though this is considered difficult. One of the factors that influence assertiveness according to Alberti and Emmons (2017) is age, the higher the age of the individual, the better the ability of assertiveness. Based on this, mature individuals are considered to have good assertiveness. This theory is in line with the results of the study that 76.68% of early adults in this study had moderate assertiveness.

Marco-Pérez, et al. (2020) reveal that dating violence is violence perpetrated by a partner in a

dating relationship either physically, psychologically, or sexually. Dating violence does not only occur in women, men can also experience dating violence (Purnomo, et al. 2020). This theory is in line with the data found by researchers that dating violence against women and men is in the moderate category. Based on a comparison test using the Mann Whitney U-Test with the help of the SPSS 25.0 application, it shows a significance value of ($p = 0.375 > 0.05$), which means there is no difference in the level of dating violence experienced by women and men.

Based on additional tests conducted by researchers regarding differences in assertiveness and dating violence in terms of gender, it is known that there are no significant differences. The data found by researchers is in line with the findings of Hutami, et al. (2021) that the significant difference in dating violence between men and women is $0.654 > 0.05$, meaning that there is no significant difference between the violence experienced by men and women woman.

The results of additional tests conducted by researchers regarding the frequency of aspects of courtship violence show that aspects of physical violence most often occur in men. The researchers' findings differ from previous findings by Rini (2022) who found that out of 90 men who experienced dating violence, the violence that most often occurred to men was psychological violence, followed by physical violence. Based on the results, it is known that the violence that occurs most frequently in women is verbal and emotional violence. These findings are in line with Rini (2022) on 312 women, the results show that the violence that most often occurs to women is psychological violence such as being yelled at, shouted at, threatened, humiliated and blamed.

5 LIMITATION

This research is certainly inseparable from several limitations, such as not exploring more deeply regarding the existence of cultural factors and level of education in the occurrence of dating violence.

6 CONCLUSION

Based on the results of data analysis, it can be concluded that there is a negative relationship between assertiveness and the tendency to experience dating violence in early adulthood in Makassar. The results of the study revealed that the higher the

assertiveness, the lower the violence in dating relationships, conversely, the lower the assertiveness, the higher the violence in dating. Future research is expected to analyze deeper into the reasons why victims do not take assertive actions and other factors that influence violence. However, this research certainly has contributed both at the applied and theoretical levels.

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