

# The Development of Social Attitudes of Middle School Students

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**Abstract**— This study discusses the development of students' social attitudes in middle school. The development of student social attitudes is very important for the success of students in socializing at their school environment. The development of students' social attitudes can also affect the student learning process at school. This study aims to show the obstacles experienced by students in their social attitudes. This study used a survey method. The research instrument used a questionnaire that measures the social attitudes of middle school students. Respondents of this study were 31 middle school students in Medan. The results of this study obtained a score of 26% which indicates the low social attitude of students on one indicator. This indicator described as the ability to direct their social attitudes and self-development. Based on these results the researcher concluded that the students' low social attitudes would have impact on both adaptive ability and students learning process at school. With the guidance and counselling services, it is expected that it can help students' ability to face problems and develop optimally.

**Keywords**— *social attitudes; student social attitudes; guidance and counselling services; middle school students*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Humans are social creatures; it is evident from birth to the end of their lives that they always need the role of other humans. As social beings, humans interact with each other. It is included in social attitudes, where [1] social attitudes have a general meaning, namely society and in a narrow sense prioritizing mutual interests or community interests. Middle school students are expected to have the ability to interact with others, and adapt accordingly in the school environment and/or community level. Social attitude is not inborn condition and/or inherited by parents, rather it will be acquired in the process of gaining experience from the environmental and social life. School or educational environment can be one of the main places where they play important roles in building social attitudes for students. So, there needs to be an awareness at the level of education to include social attitude as part of educational obligation.

Middle school students who are in the early stage of teenagers' year, also considered as in developmental phase. Development phase is a period of development that must be passed and this period is a period of transition that is very difficult and critical. Students' social development is one of the important aspects that need to be considered to help their optimal development [2]. Students who have low social attitudes will also have an impact on associating with peers at school or

in the educational environment as it is being the second home for them where their time is spent mostly in the educational environment so that it greatly influences students' social attitudes. Guidance and counselling play an important role in student development [3]. Guidance and counselling teachers can help and facilitate students by providing guidance and counselling services according to their needs. With the hope that students can become independent individuals and develop optimally.

However, the problems of students at SMP Negeri 7 Medan are often seen as being less able to socialize well with their friends. This will result in inhibition of student self-development as adolescents and can also affect their learning process. This can be seen in students who prefer spending time alone without friends who tend to look unhappy or feel less at home in the school environment. The readiness of students to understand themselves on problems often determines the success or failure of students in dealing with their own problems [4]. Some teenage students who go to school go through various struggles ranging from understanding lessons given by teachers to socializing with friends [5]. There are eight students of SMP N 7 in Medan city [6] who answered that the form of student behaviour development was influenced by the family and school environment (external), the remaining two students answered that their behaviour was influenced by themselves (internal).

Based on these problems it is important to conduct guidance and counselling services to help students overcome their social attitudes. Researchers are interested in conducting surveys related to the low social attitudes of students in middle school. Low social attitudes are problems experienced by students that will hinder their development. Guidance and counselling have a service strategy that is able to help middle school students face the obstacles or problems that they experience.

This study aims to reveal the low social attitudes of middle school students that have an impact on their development. If the students do not pass at their development phase, it will affect in their further development. The benefits of this study by providing guidance and counselling services is expected that the students will be able to socialize well and become more open.

As social beings, students are expected to be able to overcome all the problems that arise as a result of interaction with the social environment and be able to behave well.

Therefore, every student is required to master social skills and ability to adapt to their environment. Students' social skills are related to their social attitudes.

Social attitudes are one of the most significant social and psychological characteristics of individuals and the biggest consequences for both the country and society [7]. Modern understanding of social attitudes includes certain concepts, views, judgments, individual habits and other internal mechanisms which at the subconscious level makes someone to act or inhibit their action. In other words, social attitudes are one of the elements of human will [8]. Many concepts regarding the social attitudes are included in it, starting from opinions, beliefs, to the abstract concept of personality [9]. The expression of social attitudes will appear with words or deeds: agree, not sure, fight, obey orders, honest, brave, hate, trust, study hard, be aggressive to anyone and so on.

There are factors that influence changes in social attitudes, namely [10] internal factors and external factors. Internal factors are factors that exist in the human personal itself. This factor is in the form of selectivity or a person's selective power towards something of interest to receive and process external influences which are usually adjusted to the motives and attitudes in humans. External factors are factors that exist outside the human person. This factor is in the form of social interactions inside and outside the group that can change social attitudes or form new social attitudes. This factor is in the form of social interaction that occurs in the family, school and community environment.

Students' social attitudes need to get its special attention, seeing this social change factor as guidance and counselling teachers as someone who is expected to be able to educate students' characteristics in order to have a good social attitude. The results of previous studies [11] showed that around 25-30% of students experienced emotional and social problems. Problems that are often experienced are a lack of knowledge about peer interaction, social isolation, self-confidence, decreased learning achievement, and boredom experienced by students. This study shows that experiencing problems with boredom with peers in school is the highest problem that needs to be taken care of and it is part of guidance and counselling teachers to handle [12].

Guidance and counselling teachers have a very important role in educating students to achieve good social development. One of the things that teacher's guidance and counselling can do related to the development of students' social attitudes is to provide guidance and counselling services. Guidance and counselling have a service strategy that is able to assist students in facing obstacles or problems they experience [13]. The strategy of guidance and counselling services that can be provided includes classical guidance, group guidance, large class / cross-class guidance, individual counselling, group counselling. The importance of teachers providing social-emotional support to middle school students [14].

Social environment has a role in influencing students' social attitudes. The social environment has a large influence on student learning outcomes [15]. The impact that students will experience by having a low social attitude becomes diverse. Guidance and counselling teachers are expected to help students interact socially well. Social interaction systems have several theories and measurements [16]. The existing theory is expected to be used by teachers for guidance and counselling in providing optimal counselling and guidance

services. Students' social attitudes have strong internal consistency in the pro-social behaviour of students in school [17]. Efficiently, teacher guidance and counselling can identify and support students who need help getting along with peers, interacting well, which allows them to become independent students.

Various constraints that exist on students about their social attitudes become part of their developmental tasks. The importance of social interaction in the learning process for student success [18]. Student social independence is an important component in student achievement and must be considered [19]. Students who have a high social attitude will be easier to carry out their lives as students in schools and adolescents in the community. Prosocial attitudes partially mediate the relationship between gratitude and satisfaction while in the school environment and the positive influence in school [20].

## II. METHODS

This study used a survey method. Namely research conducted using a social attitude questionnaire [21]. The questionnaire is a research conducted on large and small populations. The survey research process includes survey development, sample selection and survey administration and data analysis and reporting [22]. Respondents in this study were 31 students of SMP N. 7 Medan. To identify problems, researchers collected data using a research questionnaire. Researchers analysed the instruments by factor analysis. The result of the Ngain Score analysis is 85.50. The validation result was 97.6% and the reliability was 0.761. Thus, the instrument used by the researcher was appropriate for measuring the problems of social attitudes of students at SMP N 7 Medan

## III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the results of the social attitude questionnaire, the following results can be known:

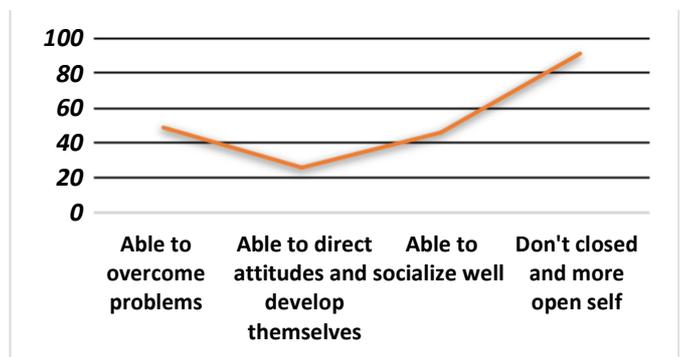


Fig. 1. Results of questionnaire data on social attitudes of junior high school students as a whole

The results of questionnaire data on social attitudes of middle school students in Fig 1. above there are several indicators including: indicators are able to overcome problems, indicators are able to direct attitudes and develop themselves, these indicators are able to socialize well, indicators for the students that do not close themselves and can be more open. The indicator related to ability to overcome the problem obtained a score of 49%, the indicator related to

ability to direct the attitude and develop themselves obtained a score of 26%, the indicator related to ability to socialize well obtained a score of 46%, and the indicator related to students ability to be more open obtained a score of 91%.

Based on the results of the questionnaire data with the highest score obtained by 91% with the indicator related to student's ability to be more open. The lowest temporary value was obtained by 26% in indicators that were related to ability to direct their attitudes and develop themselves. This shows that middle school students have a low social attitude that will relate to their development.

Middle school students need guidance and counselling services to form good social attitudes. Based on the results of a survey conducted using a social attitude questionnaire, it was found that one problem was the lowest. The lowest problem is found in indicators related to ability to direct students' attitudes and be able to develop themselves.

The bad impact of the students' inability to behave their social attitudes will result in the inability of these students to interact socially in the school environment. In line with the research conducted, it shows that a person's high and low emotional intelligence and peer interaction, especially students, play an important role in the success of their social adjustment [23]. Seeing the importance of the success of students' social attitudes in order to achieve the goal of success in adapting themselves, guidance and counselling teachers need to pay attention to the social development of students to help develop the student's social attitudes [24]. Guidance and counselling teachers using guidance and counselling service strategies can improve students' low social attitudes. This research is in line with others research which say that

*“with counselling services, the achievement of social development tasks for students with peer groups at school with regard to students' abilities in building a more mature relationship with their peers and the ability of students to perform their social roles according to gender in general has influenced the student learning process has been achieved. [25]”*

Thus, students need to have a good social attitude. So that problems related to social attitudes that have not been achieved at SMP N. 7 Medan, of course, need to be resolved by providing guidance and counselling services and these services are provided by guidance and counselling teachers. Seeing that the impact of students' low social attitudes can interfere with the process of their daily activities in the school environment.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Implementation of counselling services and guidance given to students related to social attitudes, it is known that the low ability of students to be able to direct their attitudes and develop themselves. The low ability of students to be able to direct them

attitudes and develop themselves was 26%. It can be seen that someone who has a low social attitude cannot fulfil his social development. Lestari (2015) states that [26] social development means gaining the ability to behave in accordance with social demands. To become someone who is able to interact with teachers and peers. Problems related to students' low social attitudes must be resolved immediately with the help of guidance and counselling teachers. The assistance provided by guidance and counselling teachers can be in the form of providing guidance and counselling services, guidance and counselling service strategies that are able to help students solve problems they are experiencing, including: classical guidance, group guidance, large class/cross-class guidance, individual counselling, counselling group. In this study there are still many shortcomings where this researcher is unable to describe in detail the social attitudes of students of SMP N. 7 Medan.

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