

## **Moral Disengagement and Locus of Control as a Predictor of Aggressiveness Inmates at Class IIB Muara Enim Prison**

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### **Abstract**

*This study aims to determine the influence of moral disengagement and locus of control on the aggressive behaviour of repeat offenders at the Muara Enim Class IIB Correctional Institution. The background of this study is the high incidence of aggression within correctional institutions, which is thought to be influenced by certain psychological factors, particularly how individuals view moral values and their perception of self-control. The research approach used is quantitative, using a survey method. The population in this study consists of all repeat offenders at the Muara Enim Class IIB Correctional Institution, and the sample was selected using purposive sampling. The data collection instrument is a questionnaire measuring three variables: moral disengagement, locus of control, and aggressive behaviour, which have been tested for validity and reliability. Data analysis techniques used multiple linear regression with the assistance of the SPSS program. The results of the study indicate that, partially, moral disengagement has a significant positive influence on the aggressive behaviour of prisoners, as does locus of control. Simultaneously, both variables together also show a significant influence on aggression. This study yielded an R value of 0.825 and an R Square of 0.680, with a significance level of p = 0.000 (<0.05) and the multiple regression equation Y = 78.379 + 0.473 X1 + -0.706 X2. These findings indicate that prisoners who tend to disengage from moral responsibility and have an external locus of control are more likely to exhibit aggressive behaviour during their prison term. The higher the level of Moral Disengagement, the more aggressive the prisoners' behaviour becomes, and conversely, the lower the level of Moral Disengagement, the less aggressive the prisoners' behaviour becomes. The higher the level of locus of control, the more aggressive the prisoners' behaviour will be, and conversely, the lower the level of locus of control, the less aggressive the prisoners' behaviour will be.*

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The number of inmates in correctional institutions (Lapas) will increase as more people are convicted in court. This has the potential to cause prisons to become overcrowded and exceed their capacity. Based on data presented in the Public Correctional Database System (SDP) as of February 19, 2025, it is shown that the capacity of correctional institutions (Lapas) in Indonesia should be for 145,778 inmates. In reality, the total number of inmates is 273,055 people. This means that prisons in Indonesia are experiencing 98.35% overcapacity of *overcrowded* is a common phenomenon in various correctional institutions throughout Indonesia. One example is the Class IIB Muara Enim Correctional Institution (Lapas), a Correctional Technical Implementation Unit located in Muara Enim Regency,

South Sumatra. This prison has a maximum capacity of 487 inmates, but as of February 20, 2025, it was occupied by 1,157 inmates, indicating a condition of *overcrowded* significant. *Locus of control* has a very important role in the context of prisoner rehabilitation, because it can influence the attitudes, behavior, and ability of individuals to overcome challenges during their sentence. *Moral disengagement* is a psychological process in which individuals break away from the moral norms that normally govern their behavior. This research is unique because no study has ever examined these two variables (*moral disengagement* and *locus of control*) simultaneously in the context of aggressive behavior of prisoners. The researcher chose Muara Enim Class IIB Prison as the research location, considering that cases of aggression, both verbal and physical, were still found, recorded in the Examination Reports of prisoners there.

## 2. RESEARCH METHOD

This study examines the phenomenon of aggressive behavior in prisoners using *moral disengagement* and *locus of control* as independent variables. The problem studied focuses on how these two variables influence aggressiveness in recidivist inmates. The measuring instrument used was the LoC Scale developed by Huintley, Pailmer, and Waikeling (2012). This scale includes three dimensions: Internal ( $\alpha = 0.510$ ), Powerful Others ( $\alpha = 0.647$ ), and Chaince ( $\alpha = 0.757$ ), which are in line with the dimensions used by researchers in compiling questionnaires. The results showed that the majority of participants (93.4%) tended to have an external LoC. This finding can be a basis for developing interventions aimed at balancing the LoC in inmates.

**Table 1 Operational Definition**

No	Variable	Definition	Dimensions	Instrument	Result	Scale
1	<i>Moral disengagement</i> (X1)	According to Bandura (1990), <i>Disengagement</i> is a psychological process in which a person justifies unethical or immoral behavior in order to avoid punishment or regret when committing acts that are contrary to their moral values.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Moral Justification</i></li> <li>• <i>Euphemistic Labeling</i></li> <li>• <i>Advantageous Comparison</i></li> <li>• <i>Displacement of Responsibility</i></li> <li>• <i>Diffusion of responsibility</i></li> <li>• <i>Distortion of Consequences</i></li> <li>• <i>Dehumanization</i></li> <li>• <i>Attribution of blame</i></li> </ul>	<i>Moral Disengagement Scale (MDS)</i> . by (Bandura et al., 1996)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strongly Agree (SS)</li> <li>• Agree (S)</li> <li>• Disagree (TS)</li> <li>• Strongly Disagree (STS)</li> </ul>	Scales Liked with 4 points answers

No	Variable	Definition	Dimensions	Instrument	Result	Scale
2	<i>Locus of Control</i> (X2)	According to Levenson (1981) <i>The locus of control itself is defined as a concept whereby a person controls their own destiny and is able to control various events, both internal and external, that affect their behavior.</i> various conditions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Internality</i></li> <li>• <i>Powerful-others</i></li> <li>• <i>Chance</i></li> </ul>	<i>IPC-Loci of Scale Control</i> by Levenson (1971)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strongly Agree (SS)</li> <li>• Agree (S)</li> <li>• Disagree (TS)</li> <li>• Strongly Disagree (STS)</li> </ul>	Scales Liked with 4 points answers
3	Aggressive Behavior (Y)	According to Buiss & Perry (1992), bullying is defined as a series of negative actions, ranging from verbal abuse, physical violence, to psychological and emotional abuse.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Physical Aggression</i></li> <li>• <i>Verbal Aggression</i></li> <li>• <i>Inger</i></li> <li>• <i>Hostility</i></li> </ul>	<i>Aggression Questionnaire</i> (AIQ) /Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strongly Agree (SS)</li> <li>• Agree (S)</li> <li>• Disagree (TS)</li> <li>• Strongly Disagree (STS)</li> </ul>	Scales Liked with 4 points answers

### 3. RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Research on *Moral Disengagement*, *Locus of Control*, and aggressiveness towards prisoners began by conducting a readability test of the research questionnaire on 5 prisoners at the Class IIB Muara Enim Prison. The questionnaire statement from *Moral Disengagement* totaling 24 statement items, *locus of control* totaling 19 statement items, and aggressiveness totaling 29 statement items, so that the total number of statement items in the questionnaire distributed was 72 statement items. Respondents in *pilot study* are different respondents from the actual test. After the questionnaire was declared valid and reliable, the research then continued with the actual test which was conducted on the date

at the Class IIB Muara Enim Prison. The actual test was conducted on 178 respondents, all of whom were inmates.

No	r Count	r Table	Information
1	0.694	0,147	Valid
2	0.665	0,147	Valid
3	0.743	0,147	Valid
4	0.728	0,147	Valid
5	0.717	0,147	Valid
6	0.719	0,147	Valid
7	0.724	0,147	Valid
8	0.720	0,147	Valid
9	0.741	0,147	Valid
10	0.710	0,147	Valid
11	0.651	0,147	Valid
12	0.718	0,147	Valid
13	0.659	0,147	Valid
14	0.745	0,147	Valid
15	0.695	0,147	Valid
16	0.605	0,147	Valid
17	0.791	0,147	Valid
18	0.722	0,147	Valid
19	0.746	0,147	Valid
20	0.723	0,147	Valid
21	0.719	0,147	Valid
22	0.626	0,147	Valid
23	0.673	0,147	Valid
24	0.709	0,147	Valid

**Table 2**Validity and Reliability Test

### 3.1. Research result

Validity test results of the variables of *Moral Disengagement* conducted on 178 respondents who were recidivist prisoners, it can be concluded that all statement items for the variable of *Moral Disengagement* have a calculated r greater than the table r. In this study, the basis for the validity decision is based on a comparison of the calculated r with the table r. The table r value with N = 178 obtained a result of 0.147. The results of the study can be seen in the table above, which shows that 24 statement items are declared valid in the variable of *Moral Disengagement*. Reliability test results of the variables of *Moral Disengagement* conducted on 178 respondents, inmates at the Muara Enim Class IIB Prison, are shown in the table below:

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items

0,957	24
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**Table 3**Validity and Reliability Test**3.2.Discussion**

Based on the results of the reliability test in Table 4.9, which has been analyzed by the researcher, the value obtained was *Cronbach's alpha* from variables of *Moral Disengagement* is 0.957 with the number of statements being 24 items. These results indicate that the value of *Cronbach's alpha*  $0.957 > 0.7$  means the variable of *Moral Disengagement* in this study is reliable. Research on *moral disengagement* and *locus of control*. The analysis of aggressive behavior toward 178 respondents who are inmates at the Class IIB Muara Enim Prison has obtained results from analyzing the respondents' answers to the questionnaire that has been given. The respondents who filled out the questionnaire were male respondents and the majority of the age range was 21 to 40 years. The respondents who filled out this questionnaire on average had an elementary school education and were Muslim. Then the majority of respondents worked as laborers. Furthermore, regarding their marital status, the majority were married. The most common crime they committed was narcotics crime. In addition, respondents served their sentences in prison for a maximum of 1 to 3 years. Variables of *moral disengagement* In this study, the results of respondents' responses from 24 statements were 60.1% (107 respondents) in the low category, then the high category was 39.9% (71 respondents). This means that these results indicate that prisoners have *Moral Disengagement* which is negative and is classified as a low category.

Correlation test results of variables of *Moral Disengagement*(X1) on aggressive behavior (Y) obtained a value of  $0.613 > 0.188$ , meaning that there is a correlation between the variables so that  $H_0$  is rejected and  $H_a$  is accepted. The value of *pearson correlation* This shows a positive value so the conclusion is that there is a positive and significant relationship between the variables of *Moral Disengagement* against aggressive behavior Prisoners with levels of *moral disengagement* of High offenders often show decreased motivation to change because they do not fully acknowledge their guilt in the criminal acts they have committed. In this study, *locus of control* divided into three dimensions, namely *Internal*, *Powerful Others*, And *Chance*. Variable *locus of control* in this study, the results of respondents' responses from 19 statements were 24.7% (44 respondents) in the high category, then the medium category was 56.7% (101 respondents), then the low category was 18.5% (33 respondents). This means that these results indicate that prisoners have *Locus of Control* which is negative and classified as moderate. In the context of the Class IIB Muara Enim Prison, these results indicate that the dynamics of a dense social environment, the pressure of inter-inmate relations, and a limited guidance system are environmental factors that interact with the psychological aspects of inmates in shaping aggressive behavior. Therefore, a rehabilitation approach that considers cognitive factors such as *moral disengagement* and the perception of control needs to be implemented specifically in the prison to suppress aggressive tendencies, especially in recidivist prisoners who have experienced repeated cycles of violence.

**4. CONCLUSION**

Research results regarding the influence between *Moral Disengagement* And *locus of control* on the aggressive behavior of prisoners at Class IIB Muara Enim Prison, it can be concluded that there is a positive and significant influence between *Moral Disengagement* Aggressive Behavior, negative and significant influence between *Locus of Control* on the

Aggressive Behavior of Inmates at Muara Enim Class IIB Prison. The higher the level of *Moral Disengagement/possessed*, the more aggressive behavior of prisoners will increase and vice versa, the lower the level of aggressive behavior *Moral Disengagement* possessed, the more aggressive behavior of prisoners will decrease. The higher the level of *Locus of Control* possessed, the more aggressive behavior of prisoners will increase and vice versa, the lower the level of aggressive behavior *Locus of Control* owned, the aggressive behavior of prisoners will decrease.

Results of regression tests on dimensions of *Moral Disengagement* And *Locus of Control* found that the dimensions of the independent variables influence the dependent variable in this study. These dimensions indicate a strong, positive, negative, and significant influence on the Aggressive Behavior variable of Inmates at Muara Enim Class IIB Prison. This means that each dimension influences this independent variable and plays a role in increasing or decreasing the Aggressive Behavior of Inmates at Muara Enim Class IIB Prison.

Based on the analysis of the problems and research results above, the researcher recommends alternative solutions to the problem through the program "*Acceptance and Commitment Therapy*(ACT)" to help reduce aggression, especially in stressful environments such as correctional facilities of *Acceptance and Commitment Therapy*(ACT) applied to aggressive inmates focuses on changing their thought patterns and behavioral responses to situations that trigger aggression.

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