

## DOES EMOTIONAL CONGRUENCE AND COMPULSIVE SEXUAL BEHAVIOR INCREASE THE RECURRENCE RISKS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE?

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### Abstract

This research examines the influence of Emotional Congruence with Children and Compulsive Sexual Behavior towards Re-offend Prediction of Child Sexual Offenders. The research was conducted on 111 residents of correctional facilities for child sexual abuse in 5 correctional institutions in East Java, all of whom were males aged 18 to 81. The prediction of reoffending was assessed using an actuarial instrument, Static-2002 which was tested with *Fleiss Kappa Inter-rater Reliability* 89% (14 items). Emotional Congruence with Children was assessed by the adapted *Emotional Congruence Scale of Children and Sex Questionnaire* (EC-CSQ; 15 items,  $\alpha = .88$ ). Compulsive Sexual Behavior assessed by the *Compulsive Sexual Behavior Inventory-13* (CSBI-13; 13 items,  $\alpha = .85$ ). The data was analyzed by using correlation and multivariate linear regression analysis. The research found that age and Compulsive Sexual Behavior, particularly Distress in Daily Functioning, significantly predicted reoffending among Child Sexual Crime Offenders ( $R^2 = .49$ ). However, the inability to Control Compulsive Sexual Behavior was not predictive towards reoffending. The findings of this research are expected to provide input in the criminal justice and psychological correction-rehabilitation process for sexual offenders in Indonesia.

**Keywords:** emotional congruence with children; child sexual offenders; compulsive sexual behavior; re-offend prediction of child sexual offender

### Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menguji pengaruh kesesuaian emosi dengan anak-anak dan perilaku seksual kompulsif terhadap prediksi risiko pengulangan kejahatan seksual terhadap anak-anak. Penelitian dilakukan pada 111 warga binaan pemasyarakatan kasus kejahatan seksual terhadap anak-anak pada 5 lembaga pemasyarakatan di Jawa Timur yang berjenis kelamin laki-laki dan berusia 18 hingga 81 tahun. Data prediksi risiko pengulangan kejahatan seksual diukur dengan alat prediksi risiko aktuarial kejahatan seksual Static-2002 yang telah diuji dengan *Fleiss Kappa Inter-rater Reliability* 89% (14 butir). Data Kesesuaian emosi dengan anak diukur menggunakan *Emotional Congruence Scale of Children and Sex Questionnaire* (EC-CSQ; 15 item,  $\alpha = .88$ ). Data tentang Perilaku seksual kompulsif diukur menggunakan *Compulsive Sexual Behavior Inventory-13* (CSBI-13; 13 item,  $\alpha = .85$ ). Data dianalisis menggunakan korelasi dan regresi linear *multivariate*. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa usia dan perilaku seksual kompulsif pada dimensi distress dalam fungsi sehari-hari berpengaruh signifikan pada prediksi risiko pengulangan kejahatan seksual ( $R^2 = .49$ ). Sedangkan, perilaku seksual kompulsif tidak berpengaruh pada prediksi pengulangan kejahatan seksual. Temuan penelitian ini diharapkan memberikan masukan dalam proses peradilan pidana dan proses koreksi-rehabilitasi psikologis bagi pelaku kejahatan seksual di Indonesia.

**Kata kunci:** kesesuaian emosi dengan anak; pelaku kejahatan seksual terhadap anak; perilaku seksual kompulsif; prediksi risiko pengulangan kejahatan seksual

### INTRODUCTION

According to The Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection, 'sexual

abuse is one of the most common crimes experienced by children besides physical abuse' (The Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection

[MoWECP], 2017). Based on the records from National Commission on Violence against Women in the last three years, incest, and other sexual violence against children occupies the highest position. In 2017 there were 1,210 cases of incest, 1,071 cases in 2018, and 770 incest cases and 571 cases of other sexual violence in 2019, but in 2017, only 22% of sexual violence were reported to the police courts processed only 13.2% of those cases. It means that even though sexual offenses against children are the most severe problem yearly, but still only a few are being reported and/or processed legally.

According to Olafson (2011), child sexual abuse is the involvement of children in obtaining sexual gratification by others. Child sexual abuse can be perpetrated by an adult, an older child, or even a child of the same age if coercion is present. From the general public's perspective, many people consider child molesters to be the same as pedophiles. In the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders-5 (DSM-5), pedophilia is defined as fantasies and sexual urges that are persistent and intense towards prepubescent children (Massau et al., 2017). Child sexual abuse is synonymous pedophilia, but pedophilia has a primary sexual interest in children, while child sexual abuse is mainly perpetrated by individuals who have a primary sexual attraction to adults (Stassberg et al., 2012).

Based on Indonesian law, a child are persons under 18 years old, including unborn babies (Set of Laws and Regulations of The Republic of Indonesia, 2018). Child sexual abuse is sexual touching without consent, attempted sexual intercourse, sexual intercourse with physical coercion, and sexual intercourse by force under influence or power (MoWECP, 2017). In addition, there are several non-contact acts classified as sexual crimes, including watching someone changing or undressing without the victim's knowledge,

possessing child exploitation content, and exposing genitalia to others (Gallo, 2020).

Child molesters in Indonesia are generally sentenced to a minimum of 5 years and a maximum of 15 years in prison. This criminal law has been regulated in article 81 and 82 of Law No. 35 of 2014 of Child Protection (Set of Laws and Regulations of The Republic of Indonesia, 2018). According to the Indonesian Criminal Law No.12 of 1995 article 1 number 6, a convict is a person who is sentenced based on a court ruling that has been obtained permanent legal force. Unfortunately, sexual offenders who have released from criminal penalties still can re-offend, known as recidivists. Recidivism is defined as the repetition of proven transgressions. If previously the offender received a prison sentence, then the duration of recidivism can be seen from the period of release from the previous sentence up to the time of the crime repetition (Tollenaar & van der Heijden, 2011).

According to Hanson and Yates (2013), sexual offenders may be diagnosed with mental disorders that can affect their actions, but there is a high possibility that they have relevant psychological characteristics and need an intervention for those who do not receive such diagnosis. From a public perspective, reducing the possibility of recommitted crime is to assist intervention for sexual offenders. From the research by Hanson and Yates (2013), the recidivism rate of sexual offenders is estimated at 7% to 15% within five years. Hanson and Bussiere (as cited in Hanson & Yates, 2013) said that there is a chance that sexual offenders are more likely to re-offend but prefer non-sexual crimes. Consequently, the intervention should pay attention to risk factors related to sexual and non-sexual crimes.

Based on a meta-analysis conducted by Katsiyannis et al. (2017), significant predictors influence the repetition of crimes, including

age, antisocial personality, criminogenic factors, stress, family criminality, parenting patterns in the family, gender, antisocial behavior, and substance abuse. Seto and Lalumiere (2010) identify the cause of individuals committing sexual crimes, including the experience and exposure of sexual violence, neglect, social isolation, exposure to pornography at an early age, unusual sexual attractions, and low self-esteem. According to van den Berg et al. (2017), dynamic factors as sexual crime predictors have a small to medium predictive ability, but these factors can help towards an intervention for sexual offenders. In the light of previous research, this research focuses on affective factors and behavior that play essential roles in determining the probability of reoffending among sexual crime perpetrators.

One of the risks factors a child molester has is socio-affective issues (Barnett et al., 2013). From several research summarized by Hermann et al. (2015), Emotional Congruence with Children is a psychologically significant risk factor and is important in assessing, managing, and treating child molesters. According to Hanson et al. (as cited in Hermann et al., 2015), Emotional Congruence with Children is a unique risk factor because this factor becomes meaningful and important only to child molesters. Some offenders are interested in performing sexual behavior on children and create and maintain friendship and even romantic relationships with them. Emotional Congruence is an excessive emotional attraction to children affectively and cognitively and involves attachment and emotional dependence that can only be fulfilled from interacting with children (McPhail et al., 2013).

Some child sexual offenders reveal that they have an over-association with childhood, feel childish characteristics in themselves, and emotionally attract children (McPhail et al., 2018). According to Finkelhör (as cited in

McPhail et al., 2018), Emotional Congruence is a perceived fit between the offender's emotional needs and the child's characteristics. Individuals with Emotional Congruence with children often see themselves as children and have immature emotional needs, which caused them to establish affection and sexual relationships with children. As explained by the *Blockage Model*, child sexual offenders tend to have barriers to establishing intimate relationships with adults. Due to a lack of social skills and rejection, sexual offenders prefer to choose children as partners because children are more friendly than adults (Hermann et al., 2015).

Studies found that other than affective factors, behavioral factors are important determinants of sexual behavior to study. Barnett et al. (2013) suggest that one of the important risks to review is self-management. Sexual offenders tend to have poor self-management, characterized by impulsive behavior, poor emotional management, and problem-solving skills. Poor self-management is indicated by Compulsive Sexual Behavior. Coleman (as cited in Coleman et al., 2010) defines Compulsive Sexual Behavior as a clinical symptom that is characterized by recurrent and intense sexually arousing fantasies, sexual urges, and behavior, which causes individuals distress or impair daily functioning. According to Lew-Starowicz et al. (2019), the main characteristics of Compulsive Sexual Behavior are a high pleasure in sexual behavior that has an impact on neglecting daily activities or functions; loss of control over sexual behavior; engaging in sexual activities recklessly, despite the risks or negative consequences; significant distress as a result of sexual activity; and the recurrence of sexual activities regardless no pleasure nor satisfaction obtained. Compulsive Sexual Behavior, also known as sex addiction, hypersexuality, or problematic sexual behavior that is characterized by repetitive and intense preoccupations with sexual fantasies, urges, and behaviors that are distressing to the

individual and result in psychosocial impairment (Derbyshire & Grant, 2015).

Walton et al. (2017) summarized Compulsive Sexual Behavior as the tendency of hypersexuality driven by expectations to eliminate anxiety, impulses, and fantasies. According to Miltenberger, Compulsive Sexual Behavior can form into a habit due to the negative reinforcement from an unpleasant stimulus such as anxiety and distress (Walton et al., 2017). According to Bancroft and Vukadinovic (as cited in Walton et al., 2017), people with hypersexual tendencies experience increased sexual arousal due to a conditioned response or mood stimulus or negative emotion, and in turn, would influence them to conduct sexual behavior for regulating their moods or negative emotions. Furthermore, Walton et al. (2017) stated that individuals with hypersexual tendencies might repeatedly engage in sexual activities to calm themselves down or relieve themselves from negative moods. Such sexual behavior maybe developed into an inappropriate way of regulating stress.

This research will further examine whether there is an influence on Emotional Congruence with Children and Compulsive Sexual Behavior towards Re-offend Prediction of Child Sexual Offenders. This research is important in Indonesia because research on predicting re-offending sexual crimes has not been carried out very extensively. In addition, little is known about the impact of sentencing sexual crime offenders in Indonesia, as most of them were sentenced to prison without receiving psychological interventions to treat the root of their ill behavior and reoffending probability. By understanding the relative importance of determinants of sexual abuse, this study is expected to produce knowledge about how and why a robust rehabilitation system should be developed and improved for child sexual offenders.

## METHOD

The research was conducted on 111 inmates in Correctional Institutions with child sexual offense cases from 5 Correctional Institutions class 1A to class 2B in East Java with permission from The Ministry of Law and Human Rights East Java Regional Office. The sampling technique used was purposive sampling. According to Neuman (2014), the purposive sampling technique is appropriate for use in unique cases and can be performed when the subject is difficult to reach or within a unique population. Each of the subjects in this research agreed to participate; all subjects were males aged between 18 to 81 years old.

**Table 1.**  
Demographic Characteristics

Demographic Categories	<i>n</i> (%)
Age	
Early adulthood (18-40 years)	79(71.2)
Middle adulthood (41-60 years)	24(21.6)
Late adulthood (60-64 years)	5(4.5)
Early old age (65-84 years)	3(2.7)
Level of Education	
Elementary school	32(28.8)
Junior High School	31(27.9)
Senior High School	34(30.6)
Bachelor's degree	3(2.7)
Others	11(9.9)
Marital status	
Married	41(36.9)
Divorced (pre-correctional institution resident)	10(8.1)
Divorced (post-correctional institution resident)	7(6.3)
Widower	3(2.7)
Single	51(45.9)

*Note.* *N* = 111.

The age range of the subjects selected refers to Beech and Craig (2012), Barbaree and Blanchard (as cited in Beech & Craig, 2012) argue that there is a causal effect of increasing age where the risk of sexual offense will decrease as they get older due to physiological

and psychological changes. According to Hanson (as cited in Beech & Craig, 2012), even though young offenders are at high risk, it is detected that child sexual offenders with extra-familial victims showed a small reduction of risk in the over 50's. In this study, the age of the subjects will be classified based on the age classification by Santrock (2013, see table 1). The age classification was conducted to analyze the distribution of age in this study samples. However, on subsequent analysis, age would be in the form of interval data.

Below are the victim characteristics of sexual abuse recorded, based on the description of offenders. In this research, the age of the victims classified as pre-puberty and puberty refer to Frances and First (2011). According to DMS-IV-TR, generally, children up to 13 years of age have not reached puberty. The classification of victims' relationship with offenders refers to Coding Rules for Static-2002 (Phenix et al., 2008).

**Table 2.**  
Victims' Characteristics

Victims' Characteristics	n(%)
Age	
Pre-puberty	13(11.7)
Puberty (>13 years)	98(88.3)
Relationship <sup>a</sup>	
Strangers	9(8.1)
Acquainted (extrafamilial)	89(80.2)
Family (intrafamilial)	13(11.7)

Note. N = 111.

<sup>a</sup>Relationship between victims and offenders.

This research is an explanatory study. According to Neuman (2014), explanatory research aims to find the cause and reason a problem occurs. The paper-based survey method was chosen as a data collection technique to collect past experiences and behaviors. Data were analyzed by using correlation and regression statistical methods.

Variables used in this research are The Prediction of Reoffending among Child Sexual Crime Offenders, Emotional Congruence with Children, Sexual Compulsive Behavior, and age as a demographic variable.

The Prediction of Reoffending among Child Sexual Crime Offenders was assessed by an actuarial instrument, Static-2002. Static-2002 was developed by R. Karl Hanson, PhD, and David Thornton, PhD, by combining the previous two assessment instruments, RRASOR and SACJ-min. Static-2002 evaluates risk factors that predict how likely an offender is to re-commit sexual abuse. There are 14 items related to the subject's previous crime or offenses. Each item has a specific score which is then calculated for the final score result. The result of this instrument signifies the Prediction of Reoffending among Child Sexual Crime Offenders with a higher total score indicating a higher risk of recommitting sexual offences. Trained researchers filled the STATIC-2002 instrument. Moreover, details were supported by data obtained from prison officers and brief interviews with Correctional Institution Residents. The reliability of the assessment instrument was tested using *Fleiss Kappa Interrater Reliability* and obtained an interrater agreement result of 89%.

Emotional Congruence (EC) was evaluated using the EC-CSQ scale (Emotional Congruence Scale of Children and Sex Questionnaire) compiled by Beckett et al. (as cited in Waldron et al., 2006). This scale consists of 15 items with  $\alpha = .887$ . This assessment instrument is filled using a Likert scale ranging from 0-4. Answer 0 = very wrong up to 4 = very true. Waldron et al. (2006) has conducted a factor analysis on EC-CSQ and found three dimensions, namely, *positive affect from children* (EC-PAC, e.g. "thinking about children makes me happy"), *preference for a relationship with children* (EC-PRC, e.g. "I prefer to spend my time with

children”), and *special relationship with children* (EC-SRC, “I have loved a child at first sight”).

In this research, factor analysis of the assessment instruments EC-CSQ (Emotional Congruence Scale of Children and Sex Questionnaire) was also conducted. KMO test result displays the value of .848; this means that the scale is eligible for factor analysis. *Bartlett’s Test of Sphericity* shows a value of 763.99 with  $p < .05$ ; this indicates that items in the variable have a reasonable correlation. There are three components with *eigenvalues* greater than 1. The three dimensions showed cumulative factor loadings of 60.06%, which indicates the construct validity is good. There have been some changes in item classification into dimensions, but there is no change in the naming of dimensions in the factor analysis scale results.

Compulsive Sexual Behavior (CSB) is assessed using CSBI-13 (Compulsive Sexual Behavior Inventory-13). CSBI-13 is an assessment instrument developed by Coleman and Miner to check things related to a person’s sexual control. This instrument has been through a series of studies and revisions by Miner et al. (2017) resulting from 13 items of 1 dimension, namely control with reliability *Alpha Cronbach’s* ( $\alpha = .852$ ). It uses a Likert scale of 1-5 with 1 = never at all up to 5 = very often or almost always. The higher the score obtained indicating the more incapable the individual is of controlling their sexual behavior. Miner et al. (2017) state that score of 35 or above indicates significant compulsive sexual behavior.

After factor analysis, KMO test results show a value of .818, and it can be determined that this scale is eligible for factor analysis. *Bartlett’s Test of Sphericity* displays a value of 523.37 with  $p < .05$ , indicating that the items in this variable have a reasonable correlation. There are two dimensions with an *eigenvalue* greater than 1. The two dimensions have

explained as much as 50.53%, which indicates a good construct validity; the scale dimension of the factor analysis is different from the theoretical dimension. Thus, there is one new dimension entitled *distress in daily functioning* (CSB-DDF) dimension with an item example “How often have you missed opportunities for productive and enhancing activities because of your sexual activity?”. Another dimension is the *inability to control sexual behavior* (CSB-ICS, e.g., “How often have you had trouble controlling your sexual urges?”). Each of the Static-2002, EC-CSQ, and CSBI-13 applied in this research has been translated from English into Bahasa Indonesia, and five expert judges have checked the content validity.

This study tested its hypotheses by using Hierarchical Linear Regression analysis with the help of IBM<sup>®</sup> software SPSS 22.0 for windows. This parametric analysis was managed after the data obtained passed the assumption test and was declared normal, linear, homoscedasticity, and multicollinearity problems. After that, a correlation test would be conducted first to see the relationship between variables.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Descriptive analysis was conducted on Static-2002 actuarial total scores, three dimensions of Emotional Congruence with Children variable, and two dimensions of Compulsive Sexual Behavior variable. Table 3 shows the descriptive analysis.

The average probability of reoffending was 2.6 or close to 3. With the maximum score is six, it can be said that subjects in this research were likely to have a low risk of re-offending. Moreover, the means of *emotional congruence with children*, the total scale and dimensional scores respectively, the samples reported moderate to high emotional congruence. Samples in this study reported having *positive affects on children*, a *preference for relationship with children*, and the willingness to have *special relationship with children*.

**Table 3.**  
Descriptive Analysis of Dependent and Independent Variables

Variable	Min.	Max.	M(SD)	Skewness (SE)	Kurtosis (SE)	Kolmogorov-Smirnov
STATIC						
(Total)	0	6	2.60(1.39)	.02(.22)	-.61(.45)	.000
EC (Scale 0-4)						
(Total)	0	3.60	1.97(.71)	-.45 (.22)	.44(.45)	.200
EC-PAC	0	4	2.36(.88)	-.77(.22)	.29(.45)	.000
EC-PRC	0	3.60	1.66(.78)	.33(.22)	-.10(.45)	.000
EC-SRC	0	3.75	1.79(.92)	-.08(.22)	-.91(.45)	.000
CSB (Scale 1-5)						
(Total)	1	4.62	2.28(.74)	.33(.22)	.074(.45)	.200
CSB-DDF	1	5	2.37(.84)	.42(.22)	.11(.45)	.200
CSB-ICS	1	4.20	2.13(.83)	.40(.22)	-.59(.45)	.110

Note. N = 111. STATIC = Re-offend Prediction of Child Sexual Offender; EC = Emotional Congruence; EC-PAC = Positive Affect from Children; EC-PRC = Preference for Relationship with Children; EC-SRC = Special Relationship with Children; CSB = Compulsive Sexual Behavior; CSB-DDF = Distress in Daily Functioning; CSB-ICS = Inability to Control Sexual Behavior.

In *compulsive sexual behavior*, the mean is 2.28, or close to 2; this means that subjects reported a low tendency of compulsive sexual behavior. In the dimension of *distress in daily functioning*, the subject average value is 2.37 or close to 2, which can be inferred as low sexual distress in their daily functioning. Furthermore, in the dimension of *inability to control sexual behavior*, the average value obtained in this dimension is 2.13, which can be interpreted as the subjects rarely experience problems in their inability to control sexual behavior. This study found that about 32.4% of Correctional Institution Residents met the compulsive sexual behavior criteria.

The Kolmogorov-Smirnov test on the variables of Emotional Congruence with Children variable and Compulsive Sexual Behavior variable resulted in  $p > .05$ ; thus, variables considered normally distributed (see table 3). However, when tested on the dimensions of Positive Affect from Children dimension, Preference for Relationship with Children, and Special Relationship with Children, the

Kolmogorov-Smirnov test indicates  $p < .05$ ; or not normally distributed. Meanwhile, both dimension of Compulsive Sexual Behavior, i.e., Distress in Daily Functioning and Inability to Control Sexual Behavior indicate a value of  $p > .05$  so that the data can be considered to follow the normal distribution.

Results show that the data has met the classical assumption test, allowing for hypothesis testing using parametric statistics. Table 4 presents bivariate correlations of the study variables.

The associations between variables are considered to be mild to strong. Table 4 shows a significant correlation between the Prediction of Reoffending with the Compulsive Sexual Behavior. However, this significant correlation was mainly influenced by the dimension of Distress in Daily Functioning. Age correlated highly with the probability of sexual crime reoffending. However, the Emotional Congruence with Children, both in the form of an overall scale and the dimensional scores, do

not demonstrate significant correlations with the prediction of reoffending.

be followed by the decrease of the likelihood of reoffending.

**Table 4.**  
Correlation Between Variables

	Prediction of Reoffending among Child Sexual Crime Perpetrator	
	<i>r</i>	<i>p</i>
<b>EC (total score)</b>	.011	.907
EC-PAC	.052	.591
EC-PRC	-.025	.792
EC-SRC	-.014	.882
<b>CSB (total score)</b>	.251**	.008
CSB-DDF	.276**	.003
CSB-ICS	.136	.156
<b>Age</b>	-.690**	<.001

Note.  $N = 111$ . \*\* $p < .01$

The relationship between Compulsive Sexual Behavior relationships with the Prediction of Reoffending was found to be mild. McBurney et al. (as cited in Liphadzi et al., 2015) explained that correlation coefficients ( $r$ ) with values of .1 to .29 are considered to be mildly correlated. The correlation between age with the Prediction of reoffending was strong, as the coefficient lies between .5 to 1. Age as a demographic variable negatively correlates with the Prediction of Reoffending, which means when the subject's age increases, it will

Hierarchical Linear Regression tests were performed to analyze the predictive ability of Emotional Congruence and Compulsive Behavior on the prediction of reoffending among Child Sexual Crime Offender. This study used dimensional components of compulsive sexual behavior, particularly the dimension of Distress in Daily Functioning in the regression analysis. In addition, as age was found to correlate with the prediction of reoffending significantly, this study tested the predictive ability of age on reoffending.

Based on table 5, we find that Model 2 shows a decrease in  $F$ -value compared to Model 1 ( $\Delta F = -45.97$ ). However, the explained variance in Model 2, with age and CSB-DDF as predictors, improved significantly,  $\Delta R^2 = .02$ ,  $F(2, 108) = 52.96$ ,  $p < .05$ . The Multivariate Model (Model 2) shows a coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) of .49, which means 49% variability of the prediction of reoffending among Child Sexual Crime Offender could be explained by the age and Compulsive Sexual Behavior-Distress in Daily Functioning. Meanwhile, the remaining 51% are explained by other variables which were not studied in this research.

**Table 5.**  
Hierarchical Linear Regression on Re-offend Prediction of Child Sexual Offender

Predictor	Model 1				Model 2			
	<i>b</i>	<i>SE b</i>	<i>b*</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>SE b</i>	<i>b*</i>	<i>t</i>
(Constant)	4.96	.25		19.62*	4.31	.40		10.61*
Age ( $b_1$ )	-.06	.00	-.69	-9.94*	-.06	.00	-.66	-9.47*
CSB-DDF ( $b_2$ )					.23	.115	.14	2.04*
$R^2$			.47				.49	
$\Delta R^2$							.02	
Adjusted $R^2$			.47				.48	
$F$			98.93*				52.96*	

Note.  $N = 111$ . \* $p < .05$ .



Moreover, the relative predictive ability of each variable was tested in Hierarchical Multivariate Model (Model 2) based on the  $t$ -values. Table 5 shows that age ( $b_1$ ) plays a very significant role in the prediction of reoffending,  $t(108) = -9.47, p < .05$ . Moreover, CSB-DDF ( $b_2$ ) also plays a significant role to the prediction of reoffending,  $t(108) = 2.04, p < .05$ .

The important finding in this research is that the age of sexual offenders is a robust predictive factor in predicting reoffending among Child Sexual Crime Offenders. This research finds that the less likely they will recommit sexual crime with an offender's age increases. This finding is in line with the previous research by Barbaree and Blanchard (as cited in Beech & Craig, 2012), which suggests that the risk of committing sexual offense will decrease with age due to psychological and physiological factors such as decreased sexual urges. Barbaree, Blanchard, and Langton (as cited in Beech & Craic, 2012) also examined the age of sexual offenders and found that age was related to recidivism tendencies; older offenders, when released, were less likely to recommit crimes. Furthermore, it was found that recidivism tendency dropped from 16.7% in the younger age group to 3.82% in the over 50 age group.

Moreover, this research discovered that perpetrators report the highest probability of reoffending between 20 to 24 years old. This finding suggests that the risk of reoffending is linked with the period of being sexually active during adulthood. This finding is in line with the research by Craig (as cited in Beech & Craig, 2012). Craig divided the age of offenders into several groups; Craig stated that within five years, the youngest age group (< 24 years) had a higher possibility to re-offend sexual crimes as well as non-sexual crimes. Fazel et al. (as cited in Beech & Craig, 2012) explained significant differences between age groups in terms of recidivism tendencies. The

age group of 55 years and above has a recidivism rate of 6.1%. Meanwhile, the age group under 25 years has a recidivism rate of 10.7%.

This research shows that Emotional Congruence with Children does not significantly influence the prediction of reoffending. This finding is in line with the research by Wilson (1999); he explained that the child sex offenders with post-puberty victims reported that emotional satisfaction obtained from these victims was not the primary motivation for them to conduct sexual offences. This happens because offenders with heterosexual preferences and victims above puberty-aged (*non-pedophilic*) tend to assume and give status to their victim as another 'adult'. Research conducted by Konrad et al. (2015) also supported this finding and stated that offenders who choose puberty-aged victims have a lower score in Emotional Congruence with Children compared to offenders who chose pre-puberty aged victims. However, the findings of this study were different from the research conducted by McPhail et al. (2018), which explained that sexual offenders' self-concept and childish attitude are associated with a greater risk of recidivism when released into the community. Based on the data of this research, Emotional Congruence with Children is not a significant predictor of the risk of reoffending; thus, it could not be treated as an intervention factor for all the samples in this study (both perpetrators with pre-puberty and post-puberty victims). Nevertheless, Emotional Congruence with Children still should be monitored, particularly for perpetrators who show sexual interest to pre-puberty victims.

This research shows that Compulsive Sexual Behavior can predict re-offending, especially in the Distress in Daily Functioning dimension. The increase of Distress in Daily Functioning affects Re-offend Prediction of Child Sexual Offender. This conclusion is supported by

Pithers et al. (as cited in Maniglio, 2011), who found that relapse or recurrence of a sexual offense is a direct result of the inability to cope with an unpleasant situation or emotion effectively. Marshall et al. (2001) found that most offenders experienced prolonged distress caused by the inability of coping with stress.

From various research summarized by (Maniglio, 2011) sexual offenders tend to engage in sexual activity as a coping strategy against distress or problematic situation. Sexual misconduct maybe intended to gain sexual gratification and reduce negative feelings such as anger, distress, guilt, shame, and anxiety. Sexual offenders who experience daily distress are more likely to recommit crime. Serran and Marshall (2006) research relating to sexual offenders reported that offenders try to deal with stress in various ways but often revert to sexual offenses, but when they commit these offenses, they feel more stressed, compared to what they usually experience,

According to Laws (as cited in Serran & Marshall, 2006), when an offender experiences a high-risk situation and could not cope logically, fantasies and deviant sexual behavior will emerge. In various research summarized by Coleman et al. (2010), individuals who have compulsive sexual behavior tendencies feel that their sexual behavior is excessive but cannot control it. They tend to act impulsively, and obsessive thoughts drive their behavior. Marshall et al. (2009) found that sex offenders tend to have a strong feeling of shame. Further, Tangney and Dearing explained that the feeling of shame would be covered by sexual activity resulting in a deceptive response to protect themselves from conscious emotional distress (Marshall et al., 2009).

The findings from this research emphasize the importance of making a penal-legal decision by considering the age of sex crime perpetrators and the necessity of providing

psychological rehabilitation to child sex offenders during their imprisonment or before they re-enter the community.

The ability to cope with distress for child sex offenders is a crucial factor in intervention, such as recognizing and choosing the correct way to cope with the stress they are experiencing. Thus, the offenders can avoid committing sexual offenses as a stress-coping strategy. According to Pithers et al. (as cited in Serran & Marshall, 2006), when an individual is in a high-risk situation that triggers stress and can cope appropriately, then the possibility for that individual to recommit crime will decrease. The intervention process can be performed in the correction and rehabilitation process in Correctional Institutions. As has been shown by Endler and Parker, sexual offenders discussed how they cope with problems and were guided to identify coping strategies focusing more on problem-solving (Marshall et al., 2001).

In addition, the finding of this research that age is a predictor for reoffending among Child Sexual Crime Offenders. Therefore, the perpetrator's age should be an important consideration in determining penal sentences for sexual crime offenders. The use of Static-2002 needs to be acknowledged in the legal consideration process in Indonesia. Consequently, offenders with a high risk of recurrence should be given a maximum sentence to prevent the increasing number of victims of child sexual abuse based on their age and emotional capacity.

## CONCLUSION

This research is one of the efforts to contain empirical evidence that Static-2002 can benefit use in judicial and legal processes in Indonesia. The research reveals that age is a strong predictor for re-offending sexual crime. Based on the findings of this study, young offenders with more than one victim should be

given maximum sentences because of their vulnerability to recommit sexual offences. This research also identifies that Emotional Congruence with Children was not significant for predict sexual re-offense because it is not a relevant factor for perpetrators with post-puberty victims. Compulsive Sexual Behavior, specifically Distress in Daily Functioning, is a significant predictor of the probability of reoffending among Child Sexual Crime Offenders. This study provides empirical evidence that child sexual offenders recommit sexual crime as a strategy for dealing with daily problems, which indicates an inability to solve their stress. Therefore, psychological rehabilitation, particularly developing effective coping skills, must be facilitated by Correctional Institutions in Indonesia. Perpetrators should be supported for developing two primary coping skills: *one*, daily stress coping skills, as unsolved stress would increase the risk of using sexual behavior as stress distraction, which in turn would increase the likelihood of reoffending sexual crime; *two*, stress management skills related to their deviant sexual behavior. It should be underlined, that these psychological treatments need to be done in Correctional Institutions during the rehabilitation process. This study strongly suggests that child sexual offenders, as the residents of Correctional Institutions, should be guided to gain these new skills before they can reenter the community.

#### STATEMENT OF INTEREST

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