

Soekarno: a study of his charismatic leadership and Problematic Hypersexuality

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Abstract

Soekarno was the first President of Republic of Indonesia post-independence day in 1945. He had charisma which enabled him to inspire Indonesian people to struggle against Dutch who colonialized Indonesia for about 350 years. Through his inspiring and patriotic leadership, Soekarno was not only known as an influential president but also he used his charisma to attract and have sex with several women (Susilo, 2008). All this time, Soekarno's sex life left questions since it was religiously unaccepted and ethically was taboo to expose a president's privacy. Although his sexual behaviors indicate hyper sexuality disorder, many people love him as a big president and a national pride. This article, accordingly, aims to discuss his sex behavior in terms of clinical profile, etiology and possible treatment, a journal critique, and an overarching issue on leadership role for community wellbeing.

Keywords: Soekarno, Hypersexual Disorder, Leadership, Community Wellbeing

Soekarno's leadership, polygamy, and people's amazement

Soekarno has succeeded to absolve Indonesia from Dutch colonialism. Together with Mohammad Hatta, he declared the independence of Indonesia after Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bomb in August 17, 1945 (Susilo, 2008). However, not all people liked Soekarno because of his polygamy. Indonesian women activist organizations protested him, but it did not change his position and mind to have more affairs with women. Apparently, other Indonesian group of people did not consider significantly his affairs which contradict with Eastern culture particularly Islam values. In fact, many Indonesians still admiring Soekarno (Tianlean, 2002).

The clinical profile of Soekarno

The young Soekarno started to admire girls since his 14 such as Rika Meelhusyen, Pauline Gobee, and Laura, but he was not successful to attract those Dutch girls. During his life, Soekarno had nine wives but some historians predicted that there were more (Nuryanti, et.al., 2007). It is a kind of make sense because he could not suspend his sexual desire when seeing a beautiful woman. Nuryanti, et.al., (2007), reported Soekarno's adjutant statement "*Yes, I am excited to see beautiful women. I feel dong a sin if I pretend to say not or as if I don't like them. Doing such pretense is a lie and I don't want to lie.*" Moreover he said to his autobiography author, Cindy Adams, "*I'm a very physical man. I must have sex every day.*"

Soekarno's first wife was Siti Utari. They divorced because Soekarno had an affair with his landlady in Bandung, Inggit Garnasih. Inggit was divorced and Soekarno married to his adopted daughter, Fatmawati. Soekarno had six more wives such as Hartini, Ratna Sari Dewi or Naoko Nemoto, Haryati, Yurike Sanger, Kartini Manopo, and Heldy Djafar. Most of them refused him to do polygamy but he kept looking for other women (Soyomukti, 2009).

According to *Diagnostic Statistical Manual IV (DSM-IV)* Soekarno's behavior indivates poor sexual urges control toward women and adverse consequences to him and others. These

symptoms indicate a problematic hyper sexuality (PH). In addition, he also exposed several traits suggesting callousness, lack of remorse, impulsivity and ignorance to his wives feelings and sociocultural norms.

Etiology and possible treatment

Soekarno's sexual behavior can be analyzed through biological, psychological, social, and sociocultural dimensions. Biologically, autonomic nervous system may have affected his system reactivity and anxiety. His behavior shows that he was easy to adore women without empathy to his wives. Psychologically, Soekarno was known as a brave person. His fearless and persuasion influence people to obey him easily. Consequently, it was easy for people to be bent down including women. I believe that his psychological dimension also related to his social dimension which allows him to have strong desire on women. When he was living in Tjokroaminoto's house, he considered Tjokroaminoto's wife as a perfect mother for her ways to treat him. This was the reason why Soekarno married to her daughter, Siti Utari. Utari could not be like her mother, so she was divorced. This case indicates that Soekarno lacked of mother affection and then he look for more attachments with women. The sociocultural condition might have huge impact to Soekarno's behaviors. In the previous decades, Javanese kings had more than one wife but basically it was not allowed by Islam (Fathurohman, 2007).

According to Inescu (2012), Cognitive Behavior Therapy works for individual with problematic hyper sexuality like Soekarno. Through this approach, consequences of his behavior can be reflected and help him to make a decision before hunting another girl to marry. In addition, religious approach would be beneficial in order to make him aware about the principles he believed in and the consequences of breaking it. I believe that I will need to research more about Soekarno's hypersexuality to formulate a more accurate treatment approach.

Critique a journal article

Having read a journal article titled *Hypersexuality in college students: The role of Psychopathy* (Kastner & Sellbom, 2012) I tried to relate Soekarno's hyper sexuality and his heroic behaviors. This article has given me information about the symptoms of hyper sexuality in relation to psychopathy which several of them are match with Soekarno's case. Soekarno's callousness, lack of remorse, impulsivity, and inability to learn his wives feeling may indicate psychopathic behavior in heroic context (Sue, Sue, & Sue, 2010). However, this journal was written based on the research on western undergraduate college students so that the result will probably distinct when the measurement is implied to eastern students or adults in terms of the Fearless Dominance (FD) and Impulsive Antisociality (IA), especially in Indonesia.

Discussion on an over-arching issue

People tolerated Soekarno's behaviors since he was a revolutionary figure. Although his patriotism brought the independence of Indonesia but people need to be critical on a president's behavior. In Indonesia, a leader serves as a model for people in community, so they need to be wiser in imitating a leader's behavior. People can learn how to be patriotic and revolutionary like Soekarno but they have to deliberate deeply in treating women to maintain the social order of society.

Soekarno should have sufficient treatment during his chronic illness. He had fail kidney because too much consuming sex drug and dead in 1970 in the custody after a coup d'état by the next president, Soeharto. Ethically Soekarno should receive enough health care, but people did not know much about his condition because of Soeharto's conspiracy and the authoritarian administration in that time. Today, people are missing a visionary, majestic, and revolutionary president like Soekarno but not his problematic hyper sexuality disorder.

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