Development of a Model for Social Conflict Intentions in Urban Communities as Early Warning Systems

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Abstract

Social conflict in Indonesia is caused by stereotypes, social identity and prejudice. This issue prompts research aimed at developing a model for the intention of social conflict in urban communities with predictors of stereotypes, social identity, and prejudice as early warning systems. This research refers to both correlational and sequential models. The study subjects were high school students in Sebatik, Nunukan, North Kalimantan. The sampling technique employed was quota-cluster random sampling, resulting in the participation of 108 adolescents. Data collection utilized scales for stereotypes, social identity, prejudice, and social conflict intention. Data analysis was conducted using structural equation modeling, specifically confirmatory factor analysis. The results indicate that the model for the intention of social conflict in urban communities meets the criteria for goodness-of-fit statistics, as evidenced by the values of chi-square=44.1, df=59, P value=0.92543, and RMSEA=0.000. Based on the research findings, stereotypes and social identity shape prejudice, thereby reinforcing the intention of social conflict in urban communities.

Keywords: intention, stereotype, social identity, prejudice

Introduction

Urban growth in Indonesia has significantly increased (Rahmi, 2023). The data indicate an increase in the number of urban areas; in 2000, there were 63 cities, and by 2015, this number had increased to 94 cities (Mardiansjah & Rahayu, 2019). The most recent data from 2022 show 98 cities (Ahdiat, 2023). The impact of this urban development has resulted in a population residing in cities surpassing those in rural areas, with a percentage of 56.7% in 2020. It is predicted that city dwellers will reach 66.6% by 2035, and this percentage is projected to increase to 70% of the total population in Indonesia by 2045 (Rizaty, 2021).
The burgeoning urban areas with increasingly soaring populations have led to social conflicts (Nizar et al., 2021; Saputra et al., 2023). Social conflict arises due to the inability to maintain harmony among heterogeneous communities (Arifin, 2023; Lestariono & Sentosa, 2022). The diversity of urban communities results from urbanization in various regions with different backgrounds of beliefs, ethnicities, economies, and political affiliations (Al’Alim et al., 2023; Hidayat & Karimi, 2020; Marhaeni, 2017). Social conflicts occur due to differences in religion (Halim & Mubarak, 2020; Jamaludin, 2018; Puttileihalat, 2020), ethnicity (Juditha, 2015; Kalsum, 2015; Purbasari & Suharno, 2019), competition for economic resources (Hikmawan & Ismailia, 2020; Munawar, 2018; Nurul et al., 2019), and power rivalry (Juliuni et al., 2020; Pahlevi et al., 2020; Usman, 2018) in various cities in Indonesia.

Social conflicts in urban communities are still ongoing (Firdaus et al., 2023; Saleh et al., 2023; Simbolon et al., 2023). The trigger is the ineffective handling strategy of social conflicts in urban areas. The inadequate resolution of social conflicts has been evidenced by various studies on social conflict. Studies on social conflict in Indonesia have focused only on the process of social conflict occurrence (Abduh & Kamal, 2023; Ahmad et al., 2023; Kunarsih & Tampilen, 2022) and conflict resolution (Basuki & Balak, 2023; Ludji et al., 2023; Musthofa et al., 2023). The low effectiveness of these conflict resolution patterns can be seen from indicators where property damage and loss of life have already occurred before control measures are implemented (Tidore, 2022). Another indicator is the continuation of conflicts in the same location despite unresolved resolutions. This situation results in conflict resolution akin to extinguishing a fire (Alviani & Osmawati, 2021; Hutagaol et al., 2022).

The unresolved issues surrounding social conflict necessitate alternative solutions. One approach that can be adopted is to focus on preventing social conflict. This form of conflict resolution should be chosen with the anticipation of preventing widespread and evenly distributed social conflict in urban areas in the future. This is likely to occur considering that urban areas continue to expand with increasing population. With a larger and more heterogeneous population settling in urban areas, the potential for increasingly complex social conflicts becomes greater (Pratama et al., 2022).
To minimize the potential for social conflict in the future, the implementation of an early warning system is necessary. The adoption of an early warning system is chosen because it involves providing information about the development of social conflicts that may occur in the future. Additionally, early warning systems serve as preventive measures for social conflict based on their ability to predict conflicts occurring in specific areas (Hegre et al., 2021; Lynam et al., 2023; Suyono, 2020). Studies have proven the accuracy of early warning systems in prediction, enabling their use in preventing social conflicts in various countries (Agutu, 2022; De Man et al., 2023; Hove, 2013; Tanui, 2020).

The implementation of an early warning system can be achieved by identifying variables that cause social conflicts. Identifying variables can take the form of models that describe the dynamics of social conflicts. Models resulting from the cause-and-effect relationships among variables as predictors serve as the basis for policy-making to take preventive measures against conflicts (Ferencz-Kaddari et al., 2016; Suyono, 2015).

The variables that can be included in building a model that explains social conflict include intention. Intention can be involved in the formulation of an early warning system because it encapsulates an understanding of the tendency toward conflict behavior (Havermans & Verkuyten, 2021; Rhodes et al., 2022). This intention is determined by the expression of will control, which dictates the performance of engaging in hostility toward others. The expression of will control leads to conflict depending on the extent to which one realizes actions driven by motivational factors to engage in aggressive actions against individuals from different groups (Böhm et al., 2016; Li et al., 2019).

After identifying the variable of intention, the next step in implementing an early warning system is to identify predictors that contribute to the intensity of social conflict. Stereotypes become part of the early warning system because they provide an explanation of the cognitive structure within individuals related to knowledge and beliefs such as personal attributes and images judged from social or cultural categories based on their groups. The outcome of this stereotyping process is not in line with reality because judgments are based on subjective factors, making it inaccurate to
perceive members of other groups. The presence of this misjudgment of other groups based on negative evaluations becomes a cause of competition, leading to social conflicts in urban communities with diverse backgrounds in religion, ethnicity, political views, and economic status (Fiske, 2015; Jussim et al., 2015).

Social identity also becomes a predictor in the early warning system of conflict because it is described as an individual’s specific self-image that is part of group membership (Bruner et al., 2015). This will foster in individuals an in-group mentality within their own group and view other groups as out-groups. The consequence of this in-group mentality within one’s own group and viewing other groups as out-groups will result in evaluations that lead to favoritism toward one’s own group, a tendency to negatively evaluate out-groups, and biased judgments against out-groups. This dynamic is what makes social identity a determinant variable in the occurrence of social conflict (Çakal et al., 2016; Suyono, 2017; Weisel & Zultan, 2016).

The next step in identifying predictors is finding prejudice, which plays a role as a moderator in the early warning system of conflict. Prejudice is a negative assessment directed toward other individuals based on their membership in an out-group. This negative assessment is derogatory in nature, giving rise to feelings of hostility, suspicion, hatred, and discrimination (Böhm et al., 2020; Sun et al., 2019). This factor causes prejudice to develop due to contributions from stereotypes (Fiske, 2017) and social identity (Wang et al., 2022). Prejudice that has developed in individuals influences the formation of social conflict intentions (Suyono & Nirwasari, 2022).

Based on the background above, this study focuses on the model of social conflict intention in urban communities with predictors of stereotypes, social identity, and prejudice as an early warning system. The theoretical benefits of the research contribute to the body of knowledge in social psychology, especially regarding social conflict intention, stereotypes, and social identity. The practical implications of this research include that it serves as a preventive model for social conflict in urban communities through an early warning system. The practical implications are based on the consideration that early warning systems have not yet been a preferred program for addressing social conflicts in Indonesia. This is evidenced by the limited research and implementation of early
warning systems for social conflicts. Research and implementation of early warning systems in Indonesia are more focused on the field of health (Iqbal et al., 2020; Kautsar et al., 2023; Sagay & Pangemanan, 2023). The current research aims to find a solution to this knowledge gap.

**Method**

**Design**

The implementation of an early warning system using a quantitative approach with correlational and sequential models emphasizes the analysis of causal exogenous variables predicting endogenous variables that depict the occurrence of conflict. This type was chosen because it aligns with the research goal, which is to test stereotype and social identity predictors as endogenous variables with prejudice as a moderator contributing to the endogenous variable of social conflict intention. The research implementation follows a research design starting with identifying variables that cause conflict. After identifying the conflict-causing variables, the next steps involve explaining the theoretical model of conflict event dynamics, creating measurement tools, collecting data, analyzing data, providing a conceptual explanation of the analysis results, and providing recommendations for policy-making to reduce conflict escalation, preventing it from evolving into manifest peace creation (Suyono, 2015).

**Participants**

The research subjects were adolescents who were still high school students in Sebatik. The participants were 14-18 years of age, both male and female, aged 10 to 12 years, and had indigenous and immigrant ethnic backgrounds. Based on preliminary research using focus group discussions, subjects in this area were chosen because they have the potential for social conflict categorized as communal conflict, indicated by negative evaluations of other groups. This negative evaluation manifests in the escalation of latent conflicts such as animosity, dislike, and hatred because their group, originating from a specific ethnic minority, has previously experienced derogatory treatment from the majority ethnic group. Another cause of conflict is the social distance between adolescents in the majority group and those in the minority group. This situation threatens adolescents from minority groups in their social environment. The threat is related to cultural
differences between the in-group and out-group.

Measurement
The subjects were selected using a quota-cluster random sampling technique based on the Krejcie table, resulting in 108 adolescents. The data collection instruments used for the subjects included a stereotype scale, social identity scale, prejudice scale, and social conflict intention scale. The responses on the scale used answer options consisting of strongly agree, agree, disagree, and strongly disagree. Before being used as a measurement tool, the scale was first tested for validity. The validity used is content validity, which is an analysis assessing the appropriateness of item content in measuring the behavioral indicators of the attributes of variables included in the study. The content validity was assessed by professional judgment. Furthermore, in item testing, an analysis is also conducted to determine the item difficulty index (rit). The item discrimination index is used to determine the extent to which items contribute to the scale used for research data collection.

The stereotype scale, consisting of dimensions of direction, intensity, accuracy, and content (Arendt, 2013; Nelson, 2014), comprised 20 items with corrected item-total correlations ranging from 0.381 to 0.613 and an alpha reliability coefficient of 0.888. An example item from the stereotype scale is "Likes to mock others from different groups, Individuals from other groups are not better than my group, and There is a difference in beliefs between my group and other groups due to differences in cultural backgrounds". The social identity scale contains components of categorization, identification, and social comparison (Best et al., 2016; Latif et al., 2021) and consists of 18 items with item-total correlations ranging from 0.309 to 0.683 and an alpha reliability coefficient of 0.882. An example item from the social identity scale is "It is reasonable to defend one's own group because they are always right, Befriending individuals who share similar beliefs, and culture with me, and I feel part of my group." The prejudice scale was constructed from cognitive, affective, and conative aspects (Rojas et al., 2014), comprising 24 items with item-total correlations ranging from 0.294 to 0.729 and an alpha reliability coefficient of 0.894. An example item from the prejudice scale is "Does not want to be friends with others who have different cultures? It feels like friends from other ethnicities are hostile toward me, and Treating me differently from other friends
from the same group”. The scale of social conflict intention was designed based on attitudes, subjective norms, and perceived behavioral control dimensions (Kashif et al., 2018) and consists of 12 items with item-total correlations ranging from 0.340 to 0.639 and an alpha reliability coefficient of 0.803. An example item from the social conflict intention scale is “Following the orders of influential figures to oppose others who insult my group, Sticking to my beliefs even if it means being hostile toward individuals from other groups with different cultural backgrounds, and It is permissible to harm individuals from other groups with different beliefs to achieve goals”.

Data analysis

After the data were collected, structural equation modeling analysis with confirmatory factor analysis was conducted using the Lisrel 8.71 program. The steps performed in the confirmatory factor analysis process are as follows: first, the model is conceptualized. This step involves developing hypotheses based on theory that are useful for connecting latent variables with other latent variables along with indicators. The process required at this stage also involves conceptualizing the model with a focus on the measurement model and linking it to the operationalization of latent variables shown through indicators (manifest variables) used to measure latent variables (unobserved variables); second, constructing a path diagram that facilitates the illustration of hypotheses in conceptualizing the model; third, selecting input matrices; fourth, converting path diagrams into a structural model; fifth, parameter estimation; sixth, model testing; and seventh, model interpretation.

Results

The results of the structural equation modeling statistical analysis using second-order confirmatory factor analysis, as depicted in Figure 1, met the criteria of goodness of fit statistics, as evidenced by the values of chi-square=44.1, df=59, P value=0.92543, and RMSEA=0.000. The statistically satisfactory goodness of fit statistics results can be used as a foundation to explain that prejudice [Prasangk] contributes to social conflict intention [IntKonSo], with a value of 0.32 (10.23%).
Statistical analysis revealed that prejudice influences social conflict intention, as reflected jointly by two predictors, stereotype [Stereoti] and social identity [IdSosial], with a value of 0.34 (11.56%). In more detail, stereotypes contribute to the growth of prejudice by 0.27% (7.29%). The contribution of stereotypes to this prejudice determines adolescents’ social conflict intentions by 0.32% (10.23%). Similarly, social identity contributes to the development of prejudice by 0.29% (8.41%). The contribution of social identity to the development of this prejudice determines adolescents’ social conflict intention (IKS) by 0.32 (10.23%). The results of the confirmatory factor analysis are shown in Figure 1.

![Figure 1. Results of modeling adolescent social conflict intention](image)

**Discussion**

The research findings indicate an escalation marked by the emergence of symptoms of social conflict intention among adolescents. The intention related to social conflict grows among adolescents because it is affected by stereotypes and social identity. This finding is reinforced by studies stating that intergroup relationships, especially in-group and out-group relations within ethnic groups, are influenced by stereotypes and social identity, leading to a tendency...
for conflict to occur (Ananyev & Poyker, 2023; Hadar-Shoval et al., 2019). Other studies further support the research findings, demonstrating that stereotypes and social identity can be used to assess the extent of conflict. This is because there is an indication that in-groups tend to engage in discriminatory actions against out-groups as a negative consequence of the growth of social identity within each group (Verkuyten et al., 2019). The rejection of out-groups is also due to the presence of negative stereotypes, which lead to the belief that immigrant groups have a habit of hostility, thus potentially causing conflict (Esholdt, 2019; Kil et al., 2019).

In addition to stereotypes, social identity also plays a role in influencing in-group rejection toward out-groups from immigrant groups. This is because social identity leads to the perception that one's own group is the in-group and that immigrant groups are the out-group, resulting in numerous differences such as ethnicity, beliefs, and culture, thus hindering cooperation between groups. A lack of cooperation can create social distancing, minimizing interactions between in-groups and out-groups. This process, when there are differences in interests between groups, has the potential to lead to conflict because unsuccessful interactions narrow the scope for communication to seek solutions to the issues at hand (Curry et al., 2019). Research has shown that social identity contributes to conflict intention. This is because social identity, manifested as group identity, fosters feelings of threat and hostility toward out-groups, thus potentially leading to conflict intention (Colvin, 2020).

A more in-depth explanation based on the research findings reveals that stereotypes and social identity do not directly determine the occurrence of social conflict intention. Stereotypes and social identity first form prejudice before giving rise to social conflict intention. Stereotypes and social identity influence the extent of prejudice, which can then determine the occurrence of social conflict intention (Mashuri & Zaduqisti, 2019). The theoretical concept that can be elucidated from these findings is that stereotypes provide individuals with the opportunity to make negative judgments about others. These negative judgments can lead to prejudice. High stereotypes can lead to prejudice, manifested as negative attitudes. This process can occur because stereotypes affect perceptual biases toward others due to errors in constructing knowledge, beliefs, and expectations toward others, which determine the development of
prejudice, an assessment without proper understanding of the outgroup. Judgments not based on proper understanding result in derogatory impacts on members of other groups as the outgroup (Pereda-Pereda et al., 2019). This derogatory attitude stimulates individuals to engage in discriminatory actions against others perceived to be from the out-group (Brown & Tam, 2019). When prejudice develops within an individual, he or she may engage in discriminatory practices in personal and social interactions (Esses, 2021). This dynamic influences the intentions that drive the performance of social conflict (Lu et al., 2021).

Further conceptual explanations regarding social identity-forming prejudice, which influences the tendency for the development of social conflict intention, can be elaborated more comprehensively using the concepts of categorization, group identification, and group bias (Eller et al., 2017; Falomir-Pichastor & Frederic, 2013; Wang et al., 2014). The explanation is based on the theoretical conceptual framework that social identity can shape prejudice through categorization processes that engender competition and favoritism toward the in-group to enhance self-esteem against out-groups (Hogg, 2014; Lonsdale, 2021). This leads to prejudice, as group members compete and maintain self-esteem when facing pressure from outsiders to control specific access. Prejudice will further escalate, leading to conflict if the goal of obtaining access to economic, political, or cultural resources is threatened by the outgroup (Aberson et al., 2021; Durrheim et al., 2016).

Another process is group identification. This is because individuals identify with groups based on their knowledge of membership in the group. Prejudice will occur when individuals identify with groups that make members the same as the group and feel different from other groups (Villicana et al., 2018). The next thing that triggers the development of prejudice is that members of a group have developed cognitive biases, leading to errors in judging other groups (Dhont & Hodson, 2014).

The dynamics of stereotypes and social identity-forming prejudice, as explained using the theoretical conceptual framework in the preceding section, can lead to social conflict intention (Suyono & Nirwanasari, 2022). Prejudice built from stereotypes and social identity affects
conflict intention because of the realization of negative emotions based on one's own group directed toward other groups. The negative emotions that develop within the in-group are due to solidarity toward the community (García & Rimé, 2019) and are influenced by norms and social situations when problems occur with the out-group (Althammer, 2019). These existing issues affect the intergroup interaction process, leading to threats originating from the out-group directed toward the in-group (Greenaway et al., 2014).

This is what causes prejudice to occur within the in-group, thus fostering social conflict intention related to values such as justice, social power, attention, and pressure from the surrounding environment. Prejudice within the in-group arises due to deviations from values of justice and social power hegemony imposed by the out-group (Budak, 2015; Vogt et al., 2015). This results in negative attitudes, which serve as factors fuelling prejudice. These negative attitudes are indicators of in-group conflict intentions toward the out-group (Dutta et al., 2018; Kanas et al., 2017). Signs of conflict intention have emerged, evidenced by discriminatory actions against the in-group due to unpleasant treatment from the out-group (Badaan & Jost, 2020).

Based on the explanation of how stereotypes and social identity contribute to prejudice, leading to social conflict intention in adolescents, a recommendation can be made to implement the intergroup contact hypothesis. The intergroup contact hypothesis is chosen as a preventive strategy for social conflict based on the consideration of reducing prejudice. This is because intensive communication through various activities can build confidence and new knowledge compared to before. These beliefs and knowledge become the basis for a new assessment of the out-group, leaning more toward positive judgments. The contact hypothesis also provides an opportunity for in-groups and out-groups to understand each other, respect each other, and appreciate differences. These elements serve as the main foundation for implementing social conflict prevention programs (Lutterbach & Beelmann, 2023; McKeown & Dixon, 2017).
Conclusion

Modeling indicates that stereotypes and social identity contribute to prejudice, which can lead to social conflict intention. Social conflict intention remains latent. Preventive efforts are needed for early warning system strategies that can be implemented to prevent social conflict intention from escalating into manifest violence. Prevention actions involve fostering positive attitudes and inclusive actions to reduce prejudice through the contact hypothesis. This serves as a strategic early warning effort to prevent conflict from occurring.

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