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Universitas Gadjah Mada, 2023 | Diunduh dari <http://etd.repository.ugm.ac.id/>

Exploring the Relationship Between LinkedIn Use and Anxiety Among Young Adults: Social Comparison as A Potential Mediator

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Abstract

Prior studies have explored the many contributing factors to the complex relationship between social media and mental health, yet limited have reported the relationship between LinkedIn and anxiety. Following the recent growing popularity of LinkedIn as social media and interest in the topic of anxiety among young adults, this study aims to explore the relationship between LinkedIn use and anxiety in general among young adults in Indonesia, with social comparison serving as a potential mediator. Two hundred twenty-four responses were gathered from participants aged 18 - 24 years old ($M_{age} = 21.08$, $SD_{age} = 1.82$; 61.6% female). The present study utilized quantitative method. Instruments used were the *Bahasa Indonesia* version of Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD-7) to measure anxiety, whereas the *Bahasa Indonesia* version of Iowa-Netherlands Comparison Orientation Measure (INCOM) was used to measure the likeliness to engage in social comparison (SCO). Results showed that there was no significant correlation between the frequency of LinkedIn use and



anxiety ($\beta = .089$, $p > .05$), indicating that the criteria to proceed with mediation analysis were not met. However, a significant positive correlation was found between social comparison and anxiety ($\beta = .560$, $p < .01$) along with several other findings.

Keywords: *young adults, anxiety, social comparison, social media, LinkedIn*

Abstrak

Beberapa studi sebelumnya telah mengeksplorasi banyak faktor yang berkontribusi terhadap hubungan kompleks antara media sosial dan kesehatan mental, namun masih sedikit yang melaporkan hubungan antara LinkedIn dan kecemasan. Dengan semakin populernya LinkedIn sebagai media sosial dan minat terhadap topik kecemasan di kalangan dewasa muda, penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengeksplorasi hubungan antara penggunaan LinkedIn dan kecemasan secara umum di kalangan dewasa muda di Indonesia, dengan perbandingan sosial sebagai potensi mediator. Dua ratus dua puluh empat tanggapan dikumpulkan dari peserta berusia 18 - 24 tahun (Musia = 21,08, SDusia = 1,82; 61,6% perempuan). Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kuantitatif. Instrumen yang digunakan adalah *Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD-7)* versi Bahasa Indonesia untuk mengukur kecemasan, sedangkan *Iowa-Netherlands Comparison Orientation*



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Measure (INCOM) versi Bahasa Indonesia digunakan untuk mengukur kecenderungan untuk terlibat dalam perbandingan sosial (SCO). Hasil menunjukkan bahwa tidak ada korelasi yang signifikan antara frekuensi penggunaan LinkedIn dan kecemasan ($\beta = ,089$, $p > ,05$), menunjukkan bahwa kriteria untuk melanjutkan analisis mediasi tidak terpenuhi. Namun, korelasi positif yang signifikan ditemukan antara perbandingan sosial dan kecemasan ($\beta = ,560$, $p < ,01$) bersama dengan beberapa temuan lainnya.

Kata kunci: dewasa muda, kecemasan, perbandingan sosial, media sosial, LinkedIn