

# BEYOND CONTROL ADOLESCENTS COPING TOWARDS DYSFUNCTIONING FAMILY: INTEGRATING ROLES WITH FAMILY SYSTEM THEORY

<sup>1</sup>Norulhuda Sarnon, <sup>2</sup>Fauziah Ibrahim, <sup>3</sup>Ezarina Zakaria, <sup>4\*</sup>Nor Jana Saim, <sup>5</sup>Nasrudin Subhi,  
<sup>6</sup>Suzana Mohd Hoesni, <sup>7</sup>Salina Nen, <sup>8</sup>Mohd Suhaimi Mohammad, <sup>9</sup>Khadijah Alavi,  
<sup>10</sup>Chong Sheau Tsuey

**ABSTRACT** --*This study aims to explore on how the beyond control adolescents coping with family issues through the roles they play. This study uses qualitative methods with grounded theory approach and analytical tools; open, axial and selective coding when analysing data. 5 interview questions were developed to look at the adaptation of the beyond control adolescent's role towards issues in the family. A total of 36 juvenile undergoing court orders and under the probation official's supervision were involved in this study. The study found five types of roles played by the adolescents towards family issues, namely (i) protecting, (ii) reconciling, (iii) self-separation, (v) rebelling and (vi) sacrifice. Studies have also found that informants try to protect their family members in the event of domestic violence, reconcile conflicting or divorced parents, self-separate when they are often being scolded, rebels when being ignored and sacrifice when parents do not have sufficient sources of income or are chronically ill. This study shows that the beyond control adolescents experiences in adjusting themselves with the family affect their today's behaviour. An adaptive coping role is a valuable resource that could help the professionals in the field to formulate behavioural change strategy according to the family issues that they are facing.*

**Keywords**--*beyond control adolescence, coping, dysfunction family, Family System Theory*

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<sup>1</sup>Fakulti Sains Sosial & Kemanusiaan, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

<sup>2</sup>Fakulti Sains Sosial & Kemanusiaan, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

<sup>3</sup>Fakulti Sains Sosial & Kemanusiaan, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

<sup>4\*</sup>Fakulti Sains Sosial & Kemanusiaan, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, [janasaim@ukm.edu.my](mailto:janasaim@ukm.edu.my)

<sup>5</sup>Fakulti Sains Sosial & Kemanusiaan, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

<sup>6</sup>Fakulti Sains Sosial & Kemanusiaan, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

<sup>7</sup>Fakulti Sains Sosial & Kemanusiaan, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

<sup>8</sup>Fakulti Sains Sosial & Kemanusiaan, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

<sup>9</sup>Fakulti Sains Sosial & Kemanusiaan, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

<sup>10</sup>Fakulti Sains Sosial & Kemanusiaan, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The well-being and positive development of adolescents is strongly associated with the functioning of a family (Nayana, 2013; Shek, 2016). Previous studies have shown numerous family influence on adolescent risk behaviours (Siti Hajar et al., 2017; Sarnon, 2015). Studies also indicated that most adolescents who behave beyond control, involved in crime and drugs are significantly associated with troubled families (Baglivio, & Epps, 2016; Fauziah et al., 2014; Maznah et.al, 2019; Rozmi et al., 2017). Adverse experiences of children or adolescents with various family issues result in a variety of risk behaviors such as smoking, alcohol abuse, drug use, and criminal behavior (Bellis, Lowey, Leckenby, Hughes, & Harrison, 2014; Nambile, 2017). Local studies on adolescent sexual behavior (Ezarina et al., 2017; Norulhuda et al., 2015) and adolescent pregnancy outside marriage (Khadijah et al., 2012, Sarnon et al., 2013, Nor Jana, 2013; Siti Hajar et al., 2017) have also demonstrated the association of these risk behaviors with family factors. Dysfunction of a particular family would also cause various feelings in children such as anxiety, social problems, aggressive behaviour and loss of a good role model (Ruchkin, Eisemann, Kuposov & Hagglof, 2000). Studies show that many adolescents who involved in crime are suffering from depression and that it is caused by problems in family (Burke, Mulvey, & Schubert; 2015, Ferro et al. 2011; Lim et al. 2011). Children who are exposed to conflict and who often watchparents quarrellings also experience emotional disturbances and behavioural disorders that cause them to have low self-esteem (Krug, et al., 2016) and are more prone to antisocial behaviour (Rusell, 2011).

In understanding families, the Family System Theory is a core element that needs to be explored (Hamon & Smith, 2014). Gavizzi (2016) has seen the use of this theory in providing a holistic framework for the interactive nature of family relationships with adolescents. According to the Family System Theory, when there is a problem in the family, each family members plays a role towards the problem. Parents often act as executive subsystems and children form siblings subsystems (Minuchin, 1974). However, when problems arise in the family, parents sometimes go beyond the boundaries and favour one or more children who eventually form different subsystems caused by conflicts in the system (Minuchin, 1974; Minuchin et al., 1975). The Family System Theory also emphasises the existence of transactional patterns and the role played by each family members as a system. According to this theory, children's attempts to maintain the family system at its homeostasis level could be well explained by looking at the role that signify their adaptation in the family (Minuchin, 1974). According to Bortz (2019) adolescents develop differentiation of self in the context of their family differentiation level, which depends on the family functional and transactional style. Transactional Style is a development of intimacy between family and teenagers. Therefore, this study attempts to understand the need of coping by the beyond control adolescents through the adaptation role played by adolescents.

While the terminology of children's roles suggested by Black and Wegscheider (1981), however, emphasises four main roles that represent adaptations that is Hero, Mascot, Lost Child or Scapegoat. The type of child

adaptation depends on the interaction between them and their family environment. The overall roles of the Hero and Mascot families are considered more positive whereas Scapegoat and Lost Child are considered more harmful or negative (Fischer & Wampler, 1994). Regardless of the role played by the children, it is intended to maintain homeostasis or stability in the family (Steinglass, 1989). According to Ivan (2016), the role of dysfunction family members is more restricted because they tend to undergo a process of adapting psychosocial roles, defining their family relationships status that affecting cohesion in family in a positive or negative manner. Occasionally the role of parents and the child changing in the effort to protect against inappropriate parenting behavior (Potter & Williams, 1991). Wegscheider (1976) explained Satirian (1967) concept that family systems became dysfunctional as a result of family problems that put pressure on all family members.

Given the significant relationship between adolescents behaviour and their family dysfunctionality, thus, this study wanted to explore the coping behavioural of the beyond control adolescents as a reflection in results of their adaptation and maintaining homeostaticity in their families. Adolescents need to be helped to make the chaotic experience with their families as a living process and being positive thinking to lead future life.

## **II. METHODOLOGY**

### ***1. Qualitative***

This study is a qualitative design research using grounded theory approach. This approach is suitable for finding and formulating concepts that can illustrate coping action through the adolescent roles adaptation as they are still less explored in Malaysia. A total of 5 semistructured questions were used as a guide during the interviews and the researcher examined the questionnaire twice, in accordance with the informant's understanding and the objective needs of the study. The trustworthiness of this study is based on peer review through mutual understanding and audit trail collected since the study began.

### ***2. Participants***

This study are using sampling aimed with defined criteria. It involved 36 informants, aged between 11 and 20, live in the Klang Valley, Selangor and was a beyond control teenager ordered by a court under the probation officer supervision. However, researchers still seek informed consent from the informant to be interviewed and have explained the engagement process in the early stages. There is no compulsion for informants who are uncomfortable and unwilling to participate, but all informants agreed and give full cooperation.

### ***3. Data Analysis***

In this study, interpretive practices with flexible guidelines were used by researchers as role patterns have been widely discussed in the intervention and family therapy in other countries. The conceptualization process was carried out by using analytical tools as suggested by Strauss and Corbin (1998) for grounded theory analysis. At the open coding stage, researchers find important words and phrases by testing their meaning and putting it into a

property and then a dimension. A total of 32 dimensions have been identified in the early stages. Then, at the axial coding level, the researcher has formed 16 sub-categories by associating them with the identified dimensions. Subsequently, at the selective coding level, the researcher associates the subcategories with the existing theories and forms the categories until they can be considered saturated that there are only 5 categories. In order to obtain saturated data, researchers have evaluated these concepts at various levels. Researchers applied the meanings of terminology by Black (1981 in Wampler, Downs, & Fischer, 2009) and Wegscheider (1981) (in Wampler et al., 2009) by dropping the proposed concept, and developing new terminologies to adapt into the culture in Malaysian.

### III. RESULT

#### *Background of informants*

The study involved 36 beyond control adolescents as an informants who were under the officers' supervision. Table 1 shows the demographic on background of the informants according to the age, gender and race.

**Table 1:** Studied Informants Demographic (N=36)

<b>Age</b>	<b>Numbers</b>
Early Teenagers (11-14)	4
Mid-teenagers (15-18)	22
Late Teenagers (19-21)	10
<b>Gender</b>	
Male	34
Female	2
<b>Race</b>	
Malay	32
Chinese	3
India	1

Table 2 indicates the offenses committed by the informant until the court orders for supervision.

**Table 2:** Adolescent offenses placed under the supervision of probation officers

<b>Cause</b>	<b>Number</b>
Stealing – motorcycles, mosque money, school breaks / shops for stealing	12

Break into school to play	3
Profanity / rape	5
Own / buy a stolen motorcycle	5
Fighting	5
Weed	2
Robbery	3
Snatch	1

This study has also been able to identify issues that occur in informants families. These issues are also the indicators to the disfuncioinal of informants' family. Table 3 shows the family issues that have been identified occuredin the family.

**Table 3:** Family Issues ofthe Studied Informant

<b>Family Issues</b>	<b>Bilangan</b>
Divorced	14
Low Socioeconomic (B40)	31
Borrow from Ah Long (money lender)	2
Alcohol/Drug	7
Frequent conflict	28
Autoritarian parenting	8
Mother/Father passed away	2
Mother/Father ran away	4
Mother/Father Stroke/Cronicillnes	4
Domestic violence	19
Adopted child	2

Illegitimate child	1
More than 7 siblings	3
Homeless	1

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#### IV. ADOLESCENT ROLES

The results of the analysis show that there are five themes of coping in the form of roles played by informants *(i) protecting (ii) reconciling (iii) self-separation (v) rebelling and (vi) sacrifice.*

##### *i) Protecting*

Many informants are constantly trying to protect their family members who are considered weak such as siblings and mothers so that no one become the victims of violence occurred from the conflict. Informant 3, who was arrested for stealing shared his story on how the informant had to protect his brother from being beaten by his father who was a drug addict until broke his arm.

My dad used to take drugs. Then he felt stressful. He will let go his stress through me. From standard 5, standard 6. Form 1,2,3... I used to have a broken arm. Consider like me if possible, let me become the victim not my siblings.

This nature of protection appeared when the informant himself couldn't bear to see his siblings being beaten. The informant further said, he's willing to be the punching bag to the father until the informant almost suffering mentally illness.

Because I really couldn't watch my siblings got beaten. I'm afraid I would do something out of boundaries... Cause I, I don't mind being right or wrong, just think I'm the punching bag, hit me. Don't hit my siblings. Because when I was in standard 5,6, and form 1, it is so frequent. Until I almost got mental. (Informant 3)

Due to dad's drug addiction problems and domestic violence, causing Informant 3 unable to concentrate on his studies and made himself troubled in school; *"That's it, and then I feel hesitate to go to school. At school I kind of not focusing. I think about what he did. So that's my problem at school. "*

The Informants 34 who were also being arrested for theft shared his experiences dealing with his parents divorces issue. Informants often showed his courages to protect his mother who is considered as the victim of his father's violence, while his older brother did not bother to help.

Long before the divorce, Mom had a long hair. When quarreled, Dad will cut her hair. He pushed her. My older brother just watched tv like nothing happen. I'm the one who helped my Mom. My brother seems don't bother. My youngest brother is 5 years old, that day saw Dad beat Mom. I said if u want to quarel, don't do it in front of your children..that day they quarreled over a bag. Then again quarreled in front of the kids.

Deep inside, the informants actually did not side on anyone. Informant just don't want bad things to happen to his mother. There are time informantreluctant to go home and dealing with his parents when they quarreling.

Both are wrong. No one is right. Both are wrong. Mom said this, Dad said that. Mom said there is no more understanding between them. Sometimes I feel lazy to go home. They screaming when quarreling in the room. When they are fighting, me and my younger brother backing up because worried something bad happen to my Mom. Not like my older brother. He is lazy, as long as he is happy.

For Informant 7 who was sentenced for theft, the role of protecting was shown by warning his grandfather that always hurting the mother. His mother was a janitor while his father was a taxi driver.

Indeed I at that time.. don't know how to say..don't know what I'm thinking..Warned my grandfather..If anything happen to my mom..You'll see..I always remember you. Keep on talking...Was lucky nothing bad happen to Mom.

The informant who dropped out of school after form 2 also expressed appreciation and considered family is the place to rely on "Maybe I have no one in this world right...friends easy come and go..what's more best friend...who else if not them.."This statement indicates that the informant greatly appreciates the family he has. His rude and disrespectful attitude towards elderly is based on his strong feeling wanted to protect his family. However, the informant acknowledged that the attitude is bad; "Think back.. apologise right..but maybe he wants to teach but the way he acted is wrong he over criticised..like me, I don't like people to criticise myself.. I know what I'm doing..sono need to critic.."

## ***ii) reconciling***

There are informants who also play their roles by reconciling conflicting family members, whether parents, siblings or other family members such as grandfather, grandmother, uncle/aunt.

For Informant 21, who has been involved in drug addiction since standard five, attempts to reconcile his divorced parents have often been in vain. The informant knows that no matter what he does, it will not work out if his parents do not want to reunite.

I don't really like it when they quarrel. because I want them to go back together...but I can't force them, right...I did so many things at that time..but.Mom Dad tried..but..Dad..I don't know..we can't really force them..only Dad..cause ayah said..the only thing to be scared of is the money borrowed from along..Worried they disturb my siblings.

The burden of debt caused by informant mother borrowed money from Ah Long secretly is the main reason why the father do not want to reunite; "She borrowed secretly..at that time...I didn't even know..I have spoken to my mom..if she wants to do it..talk to him first..but she..do it quietly..at the end not long after that only she told me that she borrowed money from Ah Long." This situation shows that the informant is a responsible person to ensure that the mother acts is on mutual agreement between them.

However, it was too late and to make things worse because the mother in the first place borrowed money from Ah Long without the father's knowledge.

The informant also stated that his involvement in drug abuse at a young age was merely fulfilling friends' request without thinking about the effects, but at the same time his statement was that drugs that can make people happy related to sadness of all the informant's family situations without realising it; "I just take the drugs when friend offer.. but I like it because it makes me feel happy.."

The Informant 34 who was arrested for stealing shared how each time the informant tried to reconcile his divorced parents. Informants shared how he scared to let the father and mother quarreled because the parents always misunderstood and have a big fight.

That day I followed Mom and my cousin sister to Cameron Highland, she just got divorced that time. My elder cousin brought her boyfriend. Mom brought along Adam and Aisyah. Mom slept with my cousin sister and Aisyah at the hotel. My cousin sister's boyfriend slept with Adam. Adam told my Dad they went to Cameron. Ayah got the wrong idea. Quarreled again. Sometimes I'm afraid to leave Mom with Dad alone. Scared they have big fight, cannot control.. I'm the one who have to split them apart, but sometimes it doesn't work when Dad could not control his anger. I don't know. Maybe ego. But still in contact because he has children.

The misunderstandings happened become more complicated because of parents' unwillingness to give up. The informants give examples when it comes to Hari Raya, everyone is fighting and blaming each other;

During the divorce Dad said Mom was wrong. Actually both. They talk about other people. They themselves are the same. They don't go to relatives' house during raya. We only go back to Bahau. But Dad sulky. Went back to Bahau with Dad and my brothers. He then ride motorcycle to Melaka, went to Muar. It is just a small matter, it is not that it can't be settled.. Supposedly Mom just listen to what Dad's saying.. she knew how to persuade Dad to celebrate raya after that. It can be done actually. But Mom when angry with Dad, don't want to cook, sulky, protest.

It can be concluded that the informant also have frustration with the inharmony in the family. They also play a role in reconciliation, but their dream of seeing their parents reunite is highly depends on their parents' willingness.

### ***iii) Self-separation***

The analysis also found that some informants separate themselves from playing an active role in the family. As the informants growing into teenagers, the more they do not bother what is happening in the family and communication become lesser. The Informant 33 who was arrested for stealing motorcycle shared story on how he used to talk back when he being scolded by his father, but as he grow up he just kept quiet. At the same time the informant does not want to think about it as it will more break his heart.

I just kept quiet. It still the same if I talk back...It will hurt me if I think more...I felt like I want to fight him back. At that time he beat me. He punched me because I went home late. I even being hit with pipe. Dad stepped on me, kicked me. When I was in secondary school, Dad asked where did I went to? I said I was with my friends. He made noise. I could not stand when people make noise. I get angry quickly. I make noise back. Then he kicked me..



The informant also relates his childhood had shaped him a lot today. His father, a taxi driver, was very fierce, demeaning informant, plus his parents' always quarrelling made informant happier to be with his friends compare to communicating with family.

That's bad. That's why I became like this. Like to follow friends. Mom didn't trust me since I was a kid. I being beaten since young age. That is why I become quiet as I grow up. Mom said I can talk well when I'm with my friends, but not with family. I don't want to answer. I just keep quiet...I did. I feel Dad don't love me. I don't want to reply. I kept quiet...Lazy to say it don't want to hurt their feelings. Sad or angry I keep quit. Dad said no need to give me food. He likes to look down on me...No need to come back home if I go out. But I still go back home. I used to watch my parents quarrelled all the time. I feel depressed. That's why I ended up like this.

The Informant<sup>32</sup> who was arrested for drug addiction, shared his experienced being controlled by the father. His father is a tailor while her mother is a full time housewife. His father was very strict about studies and always wanted informant to get the best results in class. Therefore, informant was not allowed to go out.

My live being controlled since primary school until form 1. Being scolded, beaten with cane...Don't know what to say. The way my dad brought me up is a bit different. During school time he gave me questions. If there's no homework, he'll give me. Being caned if I answer it wrongly. The time to take report card, I cannot get no. 3 position in the class. If not, I'll get caned... I talk less with the family as I grow up. Will only talk important matters.

Fearing the father has caused the informant to do something compulsively. He told how he pretended to pray, in front of his Dad. "I will pray when Dad is around. I will not do it if he's not home,"At the same time, informant not interested to study and ended up leave school when he was 14. His father was very angry, warned him to find his own money;

Since then, dad told me to find money on my own, so I work..but it hurts me when Dad treated me that way.. I became not interested to know much about family.. Dad seems don't bother about me.

In addition, the views given by the informant on cannabis, it seems reflecting on him, are considered to have many problems: "*For me the person who is suitable to smoke weeds are those who have a lot of problems, a lot of work. Because it don't disturb other people. Whenwe get high, we sit back and ponder, seems like we don't have problem,*" That view may have been the result of informant frustrated experience because his father did not pay attention to what he was interested in, but was always controlled him and just wanted him to have good results in studies.This also happened to the Informant 28 who was arrested for robbery. He was hit hard by his father for not wanting to learn mathematicsalthough at that time he felt not motivated because his results was not so impressive.

"I used to have no interest in studying. I love skills more. They forced me to study. If my mathematics is good then it is ok. But when my mathematics went down, they pushed me. Insist me to study. They beat me badly...Maybe my brain cannot, sis, study but still couldn't get good results..I lost the spirit to study. My results quite bad though I study hard."

Experiences like these make informant more likely to separate himself from playing active roles and prefer to be alone when at home, compare to friends who make informants feel as good as the statement made by Informant 26, that is illegitimate child “I’m lazy to say..it is still the same whether I’m there or not, different from my friend who understand more how I feel..”

#### ***iv) Rebel***

There are also informants who coped in rebellion ways against family issues. For the Informants 15 who were convicted of harming others said he get tempered easily and felt want to get angry in many situations at home; “I don't go to school..like to talk back to my Mom..it is like that.. I easily get angry.. get tempered,” Informant who is an adopted child in the family also voice out that there are time he feels want to beat his adopted parents. “Know how to talk back..know how to beat the elderly..I didn't go to school..always came back home late..backin the morning..2, 1 am..sometimes I didn't go home ..” iv) Rebellion

Informant also told his parents that he was too busy with the food business until he pay less attention to the kids. Children were asked to find their own food.“They are busy with business..It's difficult to get food., find our own pocket money [food stalls is far away from home] .. Haa.. sometimes, I don't'always go home..I went to friend's house..”. In addition, the cramped house, causing discomfort to the informant and his five other siblings until some of them slept nearthe wall and at outside or didn't go back home at all. The house space constraint also causing them to sleep mix between male and female.

Sometimes didn't come back home, somethings, cramped right, didn't go back. Sleep at outside...sometimes sleep near the wall. Can sleep beside the wall..sometimes they slept on the bed. Sometimes. Sleep, if there an empty space, they will sleep. Squeeze, mix male and female.

The informant also told that they need to be independent and get used to do things without the parents. Everyday informant went to school with brother and sister and sometimes alone by taking RapidKL bus. However, informant actually like to deviate playing games at a cybercafé and pretended to go to school; “*I..didn't go to school [skip] stole my friend's mother money because I want to go to cc [cyber café]. Just sit there..then went home..acted like just came back from school..*”

The Informant 36, who has left school since form three, and has been arrested for raping has often faced problems with his older sister's family that stayed together. He said family fights caused by small matters sometimes made informant used harsh words towardshis own mother. The informant could not stand his mother's attitude that always siding his sister and her children. “*Hit. Curse. She used to chase her [sister] out, but she said no problem. Mom always defends her. Sometimes I got angry with mom and scolded her with harsh word. Then I got out. I could not stay at home...*”

The informant felt dissatisfied as the food was often finished by his brother-in-law and their children. “Sometimes it's not enough. She gives her husband and children to eat. That's why not enough. It's noisy. Not

much money. She took the food, the rest didn't get to it. Sometimes there's no food when I got back home. That's why I make noise. Usually that is the reason why we quarrelled. That's why I don't want to stay here."

This attitude of rebellion is a bit difficult to explain because for the Informant 30 who was charged with theft, couldn't think further when he quarrel.

There's a time. When we were fighting. I don't remember at that time. I was bad tempered since I was a kid. My mom knows that. Me and my second brother also not in good terms. Couldn't even sit closely with each other. I wanted him to sit away a bit from me. My mood swing...There's always something to be angry about, always something wrong.

This may be associated with temperament of a particular teenager caused by frustration in the family. However, informant also have ambition to be successful in life although being considered as criminal: "Even though people regards me as a criminal or what ever, I want to be succeed. Although I don't take SPM examination. That's all I want to say. What else?"

#### v) *Sacrifice*

There were several informants in this study who played a role by sacrificing for the families. Informant 16 who has 8 siblings had to leave school at the age of 15 because could not afford to buy books. His mother works from home by producing helmet sponge while his father is a bodyguard. The informant stated that his family was unable to fulfill most of what his teacher asked for; "*Nothing..such as no money to buy all the books...No money to buy it...at that time, whatever teacher asked for something..I couldn't afford it...Why..no money..Dad...can give a little bit.*"

The informant also has a shyness and admitted that he is always feel shy even with his own family members, siblings, parents what some more when dealing with outsiders. Researcher believe this attitude makes informant more resentful and willing to sacrifice in order not to burden his family with the schooling demands. He was so hard to talk to and to express his feelings to anyone. "I feel shy with them...with mom, dad, and siblings. I don't know, I feel shy to talk, since last time..." The informant admitted he wanted to express himself but often felt unable to do it because worried his family would not listen or understand him; "I feel like want to talk..afraid..couldn't listen, to understand"

The informant 17 that was arrested for sniffing glue had to drop out from school at the age of 16 because did not have transportation to go to school. Furthermore, he has been absent from school for quite some time because need to look after his sick father who was unable to walk due to severe diabetes. The informant has 6 stepbrother and stepsister. His mother has ran away since he was a kid. He is being taken care of by his stepmother that work as a janitor at Ampang Hospital;

"Because there is no transport for me to go to school at Kajang. No transport. My father then sent me to engineering school. My father is sick. First he was diabetic, then he had a stroke, then he went to ICU, because his heart is weak. one month. I also took care of him for one month..because if he go to toilet..you know what is it like in

the toilet. He could not stand up, has to carry him up. Water..if he wanted to drink..I helped him. He was unable to lift up his own cup.

Table 4 demonstrates the adolescents coping themes that being mapped to the informant's family issues in this study.

**Table 4:** Coping behavioural and Family Issues

<b>Coping(through the role customisation)</b>	<b>Family issues (stated by informant)</b>
Protecting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conflict</li> <li>• Domestic violence</li> <li>• Divorce</li> </ul>
Reconciling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Divorce</li> <li>• Conflict</li> </ul>
Self-separation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authoritarian parenting style</li> <li>• Permissive parenting style</li> <li>• Lack of family communication</li> </ul>
Rebelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authoritarian parenting style</li> <li>• Parents busyness</li> <li>• Poverty</li> <li>• Divorce</li> </ul>
Sacrifice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poverty</li> <li>• Parents with chronic illness</li> </ul>

## V. DISCUSSION

All of the identified coping behaviours indicated that the beyond control adolescents in this study coping in different ways in dealing with their family issues. Generally, there are two types of coping that being introduced by Lazarus and Folkman (1981), namely emotion-focused coping and problem-focused coping. The results of this study discover that the beyond control adolescents use both forms of coping strategies. an emotion-focused coping strategy. The role of protecting, reconciling and sacrifice played by informants are more focus towards on problem-focused coping strategies while the role of self-isolation and rebellion is

Adolescent development, parent-child relationships and family interaction patterns are the interrelated process and affect each other. According to Bowen (1978), the family differentiation level is an interrelated and is an adaptive development process. Most studies on coping behavioural are referred to children's adaptive roles including the use of Children's Roles Inventory by Wampler, Downs, & Fischer (2009), inventory to measure children's role in terminology by Black (1981) and Wegscheider (1981 in Wampler, Downs, & Fischer, 2009)

namely hero, scapegoat, mascot and lost child. While the results of this study that aimed at a group of beyond control adolescents found that the role of mascot-like features did not emerge from the theme analysis. This indicates the possibility that adolescents who play a role in mascot are less likely to engage in beyond control behaviour.

The role of protecting the family is the most played by informants that are from the beyond control adolescents. The results of this analysis signify that most of the beyond control teenagers who play the role of protector actually worry that their family members will be the violence victim during a fight. In the Theory of Family Emotion Systems, the worriedness on family members are normal when imbalance exist in a family (Papero, 1990). Besides these concerns, adolescents who play the role of protectors also have the nature feelings of appreciating the family. In contrast with the role suggested by Black (1981) it was found that this protective feature resembles the 'hero'. In the context of this study, although beyond control adolescents with this protective characteristics may be considered as a hero, the analysis also indicates that those who play the protecting roles still feel disturbed and think about family problems while they are in school. This shows how great the impact of family problems on a child, even though the child is always willing to help and does not seem depressed. Most adolescents in a more protective role are obviously from conflicting families and domestic violence. The unhappy family have a devastating effect on the adolescent. The feeling don't feel like to go home for teenagers that have protective role, they have to go home because they are worried that their family members might become the victim if they are not ready and not being at home.

Besides protecting, many of the beyond control teens play a positive role in making peace. This is an active role that being played in helping to solve family problems directly. No understanding between parents will cause conflict and they will quarrel and fight with each other (Arief and Wardah, 2006). Adolescents' responsibility to try to reconcile and participate in family conflicts is a signal that parents do not realize that children are frustrated with the unharmonious in the family and wanting peace and love from both parents. Most of those who play the role of reconciliation are more likely to be seen in adolescents with divorced parents and often face domestic conflicts. A study by Norhayati and Zaidah (2016) shows that adolescents are most affected by the divorce that occurs between their parents. Studies by Cummings and Davies (2010) and Shek (2000) have found that unhappy parents affect their children. Cui, Fincham and Pasley (2008) confirm that marital conflict, parental divorce, is associated with children problem. It can be seen in this study that beyond control adolescents play a role to reconcile but have to admit that their dream of seeing their parents reunite in harmony greatly depends on their parents' willingness. The involvement of adolescents with beyond control behaviours is most likely are the result of the disappointment they experienced on the expectation they plaed on family.

For adolescents who are coping by self-separation, the coping strategy used is more on avoiding. Compare to the role suggested by Black (1981) it is found that the self-separation is similar to the 'lost child' characteristic. Adolescents in the lost child category are often neglected, silent, and prefer to be absent from the family (Wegscheider, 1981). The results signifies that the role of self-separation became more obvious when they grow up

into teenager. They will feel pressured and distanced from their parents until some run away from home in search of peace and quiet (Khadijah, 2012). This research found that beyond control adolescents with self-separation roles had gone through childhood life that is full of punishment from adults with authority such as their fathers until they were no longer happy with their family and is not trusted by the family. They become less interested in communicating and engaging in family activities. Most of them are teenagers who have families with authoritarian parenting styles. Parents are said to be strict in punishing their children. A study by Zainal and Sharani's (2004) demonstrates that the effects of autocratic control methods will produce a combination of insurgency and dependency. Othman and Norazmah (2010) also support the assertion because the findings indicate that strict parenting attitudes or being autocratic, busy working, lack of social support in family members could easily expose children to social problems. Smetana (2017) in her study found that stern physical discipline, shouting or scolding, expressing frustration, and cynical, all of which are the characteristic of authoritarian parenting, have a bad effect on the well-being of children around the world. In addition, the lack of interaction between children and family members causes children to lose their place to share problems. Thus, children are more likely to engage with problematic peers who are easily prone to criminal activities.

In this study, adolescents who played the role of rebel were more likely to exist among adolescents with less treatment and attention from parents that may be due to busy work or family with large numbers of siblings or households. Also, the problem like in the case of an informant who is an adopted child added the pressure. A study by Marcotte and Bauffard (2002) explains that adolescents' delinquencies behaviours occurred because lack of support and love from parents. The neglect and lack of attention towards adolescents during childhood make teenagers feel depressed and easily get angry. This rebellious attitude could also be associated with adolescents' natural temperament when under pressure.

For adolescents who play the role of self-sacrifice, most of them are from families with low socioeconomic status. A study by Mohd Taib and Noor Baiduri (2011) signifies that economic factors are the dominant factor in all problems experienced by most families in Malaysia. Sometimes teenagers do not have much choice and have to make decisions that would only sacrifice their own future. The results of this study show that sacrifice is more obvious in cases of school drop out due to family inability. According to Carney et al. (2013), there is a significant relationship between family socioeconomic status and delinquency, although it is sometimes negative and positive. The socioeconomic status of the family comprises the factors of parent employment, income, and education level. Defoe et al. (2013), Schonberg & Shaw (2007), Karriker-Jaffe (2011) and Daniel et al. (2009) also support the idea that socioeconomic is related to delinquency. Amna et al. (2003) also assessed social problems in adolescents are caused by the socioeconomic changes that bring pressure into adolescents that lead them to do social criminal activities. Socioeconomic changes mean poverty, urbanisation, breakup family and risky living areas.

In designing a pattern of assistance for adolescents living in a dysfunctional family, the ability of a teenager to break the family's dysfunctional chain is crucial. This is because an individual's capacity to grow into adulthood is

guided by the patterns learned when dealing with family relationships (Papero, 1990). Parillo (2008) has identified the characteristics that a teen should have, in order to protect and minimise the long-term negative effects of a dysfunctional family, that is (1) resilience (2) intelligence (3) internal locus control (4) ability to identify opportunities to change ; (5) awareness of a better future; and (6) family awareness and commitment to change. All of these features should be applied into any programmes for adolescents from dysfunctional families. Adolescents need to be guided in order to do differentiation of self and this could change the way they look at their family and at the same time reducing dependence towards family.

Furthermore, the positive roles of beyond control adolescents could be seen that can protect, willing to sacrifice for their families, and striving to reconcile, should be taken as an intervention element for adolescents who are already involved in beyond control problems. Professionals could apply cognitive restructuring techniques in combination with existing reality strengths. These identified strengths could be applied in the form of positive thoughts and new definitions to their families so that adolescents have better resilience. A study by Ng Ying Yee and Wan Shahrazad (2017) show that resilience is significant with family functioning. For example protective characteristics could be transferred as protecting themselves from any unhealthy things including bad family influences. Likewise, reconciliation could be transferred to forgive the mistakes and frustrations that parents have made and be willing to sacrifice means their willingness to sacrifice their feelings to leave their unfit family culture for change. Likewise, reconciliation can be transferred to forgive the mistakes and frustrations that parents have made and to be willing to sacrifice means their willingness to sacrifice their feelings to leave their family culture unfit for change. Its really need huge sacrifice because the challenge is so great for a teenager.

## VI. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, beyond control adolescents are likely to cope in their own roles and not same with one another when it comes to family issues, as well as it also depends on the type of family issue they are facing. In helping children or teenagers, Family System Theory also needs to be look at by combining it with understanding of Children's roles. In order to design an intervention for beyond control adolescents or dysfunction family, research into how adolescents adapt within the family is needed to enable effective behavioural change.

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