# A PSYCHOLOGICAL DISORDER EXPERIENCED BY LISBON'S DAUGHTERS THAT LEADS THEM TO COMMIT SUICIDES IN SOFIA COPPOLA'S MOVIE THE VIRGIN SUICIDES

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## ABSTRACT

There is a lot of literary work that can be found as a reference in writing the article. In this article, the writer decided to choose film as a main resource of writing. The main reason for choosing The Virgin Suicides film is because there is a lesson that can be taken from the movie. The Virgin Suicides is a well-structured movie that tells the genesis series of successive film stories starting from authoritarian parents and emotional abuse from the parents until the effects of those behaviors on the children. Mr. and Mrs. Lisbon create rigid and strict rules causing their children to live under pressure, living with major depression, borderline personality disorder, and even the worst part, they commit suicides (suicidal behavior). In analyzing this movie, the writer uses a psychological approach because the movie is related to the psychological disorder of Lisbon sisters. In relating with that, the writer elaborates the behavior changes of Lisbon sisters as a result of parental methods which are being too over protective.. There are symptoms that Lisbon sisters show due to their suffering from psychological disorder. Due to authoritarian rules and emotional abuse from the parents, the children live under pressure causing several bad effects such as depression, borderline personality disorder, and, the worst case, commiting a suicide.

Keywords: Psychological disorder, personality disorder, suicide, parental

### ABSTRAK

Banyak karya sastra yang dapat dijadikan sebagai sumber dalam penulisan tesis. Dalam artikel ini penulis memilih film sebagai sumber utama. Alasan utama mengapa penulis memilih film The Virgin Suicides karena ada pelajaran yang dapat diambil dari film ini. The Virgin Suicides adalah film dengan susunan struktur yang terorganisir karena menceritakan runtutan cerita film dengan berurutan dimulai dari orang tua yang otoriter dan juga perlakuan emosional yang tidak wajar dari orang tua yang memberikan efek terhadap tingkah laku anak-anaknya. Ayah dan Ibu Lisbon membuat peraturan yang kaku dan ketat sehingga membuat anak mereka hidup dibawah tekanan, depresi, gangguan kepribadian ambang, bahkan hal terburuknya yaitu mereka melakukan percobaan bunuh diri. Dalam menganalisa film ini penulis menggunakan pendekatan psikologi karena film ini berhubungan dengan gangguan psikologi dari Lisbon bersaudara. Sehubungan dengan hal tersebut, penulis menguraikan perubahan perilaku dari Lisbon bersaudara akibat dari perlakuan orang tua yang terlalu protektif terhadap anak-anak mereka. Ada beberapa gejala yang

ditunjukkan oleh Lisbon bersaudara akibat gangguan psikologi. Ada gejala vang terlihat dari lisbon bersaudara karena menderita gangguan psikologis. Karena cara mendidik orang tua dengan otoriter dan emosional ,maka anak-anak hidup dalam tekanan dan beberapa hal buruk seperti depresi, gangguan kepribadian dan hal yang terburuk melakukan bunuh diri .

Kata kunci : gangguan psikologi, gangguan kejiwaan, bunuh diri, pola asuh

# BACKGROUND

The Virgin Suicides is an American Drama Film that was released in the cinema in 2000 directed by Sofia Coppola, one of American's most accomplished and popular screenwriters at present. The movie was released under American Zoetrope, Muse Productions, and Eternity Pictures and distributed by Paramount Classics. The movie received generally positive reviews, was nominated in 11 awards and won several nominations.

The Virgin Suicides is a story about 5 daughters of Mr. And Mrs. Lisbon. They are such beautiful, flawless, and mysterious creatures. Many people were so curious about the impressive existence of the Lisbon Sisters. Their eccentric appearance made their neighbors admire them. However, their parents, especially the rigid, religious, and solemn Mrs. Lisbon gave too many rules. These strict rules create depressions and mental disorders for the daughters. The youngest one, Cecilia Lisbon (13 years old), attempted suicide. Then, it was continued by her other sisters; Lux Lisbon (14 years old), Bonnie Lisbon (15 years old), Mary Lisbon (16 years old), and Therese Lisbon (17 years old). The suicide occurred after they got through great and painful imprisonment from their parents.

The psychological theory would examine the perspective of human behavior. The writer would be more focused to analyze the psychological disorder approach from the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Lisbon. In this study, the writer defines the factor, the cause, and the effect of psychological disorder on the Lisbon sisters. The treatment which they received from their

parents created a very big influence on the life of the Lisbon sisters. Suicide is tragic, ironic, and sad because they could not find blissfulness and cheerfulness in their teenage days. Teenage life is the moment where they fill in their days with happiness, but it is contradictory with the life of the Lisbon sisters.

Parenting style refers to how parents choose to raise their children. The way parents raise their children is an important factor for their children's socioemotional growth and development. According to Diana Baumrind (2013), there are three parenting styles; authoritative, authoritarian, and permissive. Maccoby and Martin later expanded upon Diana Baumrind's work and added the uninvolved/neglectful parenting style. One of the parenting styles is authoritarian which is applied by Mr. and Mrs. Lisbon in the movie The Virgin Suicides.

Erik Erikson (year) proposed a theory of psychosocial development that consists of eight stages from infancy to adulthood. During the transition of each stage, the person experiences a psychosocial crisis which could lead to positive or negative outcomes for their personality development.

A psychological disorder, abnormal behavior, or mental disorder is a psychological dysfunction that is associated with distress or impairment in functioning and a response that is not typical or culturally expected. According to the American Psychiatric Association's DSM-5, there are so many subtypes of psychological disorders. Here the writer combines several of the subtypes and matches them with a suitable approach to the film.

Depression is a mood disorder that prevents individuals from leading a normal life, at work socially or within their family. Depression results from systematic negative bias in thinking processes. Emotional and behavioral (and possibly physical) symptoms are the result of cognitive abnormality. It means that depressed patients think differently than clinically normal people. According to cognitive-behavioral theory, depressed people think differently than non-depressed people. The difference in thinking causes them to become depressed. For example, depressed people tend to view themselves, their environment, and the future in a negative, pessimistic light. As a result, depressed people tend to misinterpret facts in negative ways and blame themselves for any misfortune that occurs. This negative thinking and judgment style functions as a negative bias. It makes it easy for depressed people to see situations as being much worse than they are. It increases the risk that such people will develop depressive symptoms in response to stressful situations. Different cognitive-behavioral theorists have developed their unique twist on the cognitive way of thinking (Nemade, 2007).

The dejected mood between each depressed person is different. It depends on the level of dejected mood. Depressed people indicate feeling blue or sad and feel hopeless or miserable. There are three levels of dejected Mood: Mild, Moderate, and Severe.

- Mild. The depressed people indicate feeling blue or sad. The unpleasant feeling tends to fluctuate considerably during the day and at times may be absent. The depressed people may even feel cheerful. Also, the dysphoric feeling can be relieved partially or completely by outside stimuli, such as a compliment, a joke, or a favorable event. With a little effort or ingenuity, the examiner can usually evoke a positive response. The depressed people at this level generally react with genuine amusement to jokes or humorous anecdotes.
- 2) Moderate: The dysphoria tends to be more pronounced and more persistent. The depressed people's feeling is less likely to be influenced by other people's attempts to cheer them up. Any relief of this nature is temporary. Also, diurnal variation is frequently present: The dysphoria is often worse in the morning and tends to be alleviated as the day progresses.
- 3) Severe. In cases of severe depression, the depressed people feel "hopeless" or "miserable." Agitated patients frequently state "worried." The severely depressed patients indicated feeling sad all the

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time and "could not snap out of it". These depressed people were so sad that it was very painful, or could not stand it. Depressed people often express negative feelings.

The depressed people appear to distinguish feelings of dislike from negative attitudes such as "worthless."

- Mild: Depressed people feel disappointed with the things that they have done.
- Moderate: The feeling of self-dislike is stronger and may progress to a feeling of disgust with oneself.
- Severe: The feeling may progress to the point where the depressed people hate themselves. This stage may be identified by statements "Terrible person" or "despicable".

The loss of gratification is such a pervasive process among depressed people and it becomes the central feature of this psychological disorder. The severely depressed people reported at least partial loss of satisfaction. This was the most common symptom among the depressed group as a whole.

- Mild. The depressed people complain that some of the joy has gone out of life. Depressed people are no longer get a "kick" or pleasure from family, friends, or jobs. Characteristically, activities involving responsibility, obligation, or effort become less satisfying. Often, depressed people find greater satisfaction in passive activities involving recreation, relaxation, or rest.
- 2) Moderate. Depressed people feel bored much of the time. Depressed people may try to enjoy some former favorite activities but these seem "flat" now. Business or professional activities that formerly excited now fail to boost up the mood of depressed people. Depressed people may obtain temporary relief from a change, such as a vacation, but the boredom returns upon resumption of usual activities.

3) Severe. Depressed people experience no enjoyment from activities that were formerly pleasurable, and may even feel an aversion for activities once enjoyed. Popular claims or expressions of love or friendship no longer bring any degree of satisfaction. The depressed people almost uniformly complain that nothing gives any degree of satisfaction.

Loss of emotional involvement in other people or activities usually accompanies the loss of satisfaction. This is manifested by a decline in interest in particular activities or affection or concern for other persons. Loss of affection for family members and friends is often a cause for concern to depressed people and occasionally is a major factor in seeking medical attention. The severely depressed people reported undergoing a loss of feeling for or interest in other people.

- Mild. In mild cases, there is some decline in the degree of enthusiasm for, or absorption in, an activity. The depressed people sometimes report no longer experiencing the same intensity of love or affection for spouse, children, or friends, but at the same time may feel more dependent.
- Moderate. The loss of interest or positive feelings may progress to indifference. Depressed people build a wall between themself to other people. Both men and women may no longer care about their appearance.
- Severe. The loss of attachment to external objects may progress to apathy.

The depressed people may not only lose any positive feelings for family members but may be surprised to find that the only reaction is a negative one. In some cases, depressed people experience only a kind of cold hate, which may be masked by dependency. Depressed people no longer care about family and friends.

1) Mild. Depressed people who frequently enjoy listening to jokes and telling jokes find that these are no longer such ready sources of

gratification. Depressed people remark that jokes no longer seem funny. Furthermore, depressed people do not handle kidding with friends as well as previously.

- 2) Moderate. Depressed people may see the point of a joke and can even force a smile, but are usually not amused. Depressed people cannot see the light side of events and tend to take everything seriously.
- 3) Severe. Depressed people do not respond at all to humorous stories by other people. Where others may respond to the humorous element in a joke, depressed people are more likely to respond to the aggressive or hostile content and feel hurt or disgusted.

Low self-esteem is a characteristic feature of depression. Selfdevaluation is part of depressed people's pattern of viewing themselves as deficient in those attributes that are specifically important to depressed people: ability, performance, intelligence, health, strength, personal attractiveness, popularity, or financial resources. The sense of deficiency may also be reflected in complaints of deprivation of the love or material possessions. This reaction is most apparent in patients who have had, respectively, an unhappy love affair or a financial reversal just before the depression.

- Mild. Depressed people show an excessive reaction to the errors or difficulties and are prone to regard it as a reflection of inadequacy or a defect. Depressed people compare themselves with others and, more often than not, conclude depressed people are inferior. It is possible, however, to correct these inaccurate self-evaluations, at least temporarily, by confronting depressed people with appropriate evidence or by reasoning with depressed people.
- 2) Moderate: Most of the depressed people's thought content revolves around the sense of deficiency, and depressed people are prone to interpret neutral situations as indicative of this deficiency. Depressed people exaggerate the degree and significance of any errors. When they look at their present and past life, they see the failures as outstanding

and the success as faint by comparison. Depressed people complain of losing confidence in themselves.

3) Severe: Depressed people's self-evaluations are at the lowest point. They drastically downgrade and are regarded as worthless, completely inept, and total failures. They claim that it would be better off without family members. The severely depressed people may be preoccupied with ideas of being the world's worst sinner, completely impoverished, or inadequate. Attempts to correct erroneous ideas are generally fruitless.

A gloomy outlook and pessimism are closely related to the feelings of hopelessness mentioned previously. A negative outlook is often a source of frustration to friends, family, and physicians when depressed people try to be of help. Depressed people think in terms of a future in which the present deficient condition (financial, social, physical) will continue or even get worse. This sense of permanence and irreversibility of one's status or problems seems to form the basis for consideration of suicide as a logical course of action. The relationship of hopelessness to suicide is indicated by the finding that, of all the symptoms that are correlated with suicide, the correlation coefficient of hopelessness: suicide was the highest.

- Mild. Depressed people tend to expect a negative outcome in ambiguous or equivocal situations. When associates and friends feel justified in anticipating favorable results, depressed people's expectations lean toward the pessimistic.
- Moderate. Depressed people regard the future as unpromising and state nothing to which to look forward. Depressed people don't have any spirit to do anything as the future is unpromising.
- 3) Severe. They view the future as black and hopeless. Depressed people state that they never get over the troubles and that things cannot get better. Depressed people believe none of their problems can be solved.

Depressives' perseverating self-blame and self-criticism and In the more severe cases, depressed people may blame themselves for what happens.

- Mild. In mild cases, depressed people are prone to blame and criticize when things fall short of rigid, perfectionist standards.
- Moderate. Depressed people are likely to criticize harshly for any aspect of personality or behavior. Depressed people are likely to blame things for mishaps that are not their fault.
- Severe. In this severe state, depressed people are even more extreme in self-blame or self-criticism. Depressed people seem to be intolerant of any shortcomings in themselves. (Beck, 2009)

Borderline Personality Disorder is the most prominent of the ten personality disorders defined and described in DSM-IV-TR. A "personality disorder" is defined as a cluster of long-standing, ingrained traits in an individual's demeanor. Typically, detectable by the time of early adulthood, adolescence, or even earlier, these traits are relatively inflexible and result in maladaptive, destructive patterns of behaving, perceiving, and relating to others (Kreisman, 2004:6). People suffering BPD may show the following symptoms like abdominal fear, unstable interpersonal relationship, identity disturbance, emptiness, Impulsive, self-destructive behaviors, and Suicidal behavior disorder.

After watching the movie, the writer finds some problems concerning psychological issues in the Virgin Suicide movie. The first one is the things which make all Lisbon sisters suffer from Psychological disorder in the movie The Virgin Suicide. The second one is that the impact of the psychological disorder on the Lisbon sisters in the movie The Virgin Suicide. The research aims to know things that make all Lisbon families suffer from psychological disorders. The second aim is to know the impacts of the Lisbon sisters suffering from psychological disorders.

#### METHOD

This research is qualitative. Qualitative research methods are used to examine questions that can best be answered by verbally describing how participants in a study perceive and interpret various aspects of their environment. The researcher uses a qualitative method to analyze the movie. The researcher gathered all the resources that he could get from the internet, e-book, and library research to support his study. The researcher uses psychological theory to analyze this movie because, in his point of view, those are the right theories and approaches to choose.

Research methodology is the techniques and procedures to collect and analyze the data. This is in line with what Cooper & Schindler explains that "Research in any organization is the inquiry carried out to provide information for solving the problems" (2003). The purpose is to provide the work plan of the research. Hence, the writer explains research design, data and data resources, data collecting techniques, data analyzing procedure, and data validity check.

Moreover, data are factual information which are taken from data sources. The writer takes primary and secondary data for data and data sources. Therefore, primary data in this thesis are taken from Sofia Coppola's movie The Virgin Suicides especially the ones which are related to psychology approach that will be the main focus of analyzing this movie. On the contrary, secondary data are data compiled by researcher from available sources that mean second hand research. Therefore, secondary data in this thesis are information taken from books, articles, and internet articles which support this thesis specifically related with theory that the writer takes about depressive disorder theory and mental disorder theory.

Once the writer has collected the data, the data are then analyzed by using data analyzing procedure. The writer interprets the data whether the data are suitable or not for the analysis; the writer evaluates the data based on psychological approach. After accomplishing the step, the writer does the next step to make the contents of this thesis valid. Then, based on the conflict the main character encountered, the distinctive data is examined.

#### **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

# FACTORS THAT MAKE LISBON SISTERS SUFFER FROM PSYCHOLOGICAL DISORDER

#### A. Parenting Style: Authoritarian

#### 1. Authoritarian as a Major Key in Rigid and Strict Rules

Many parenting styles can be found in the way a parent raises and educates their children. One of the parenting styles is authoritarian which fits in with the formulation of the problems in this study. Parenting style is the method using psychological construction to build a standard strategy to develop their children. Parents with an authoritarian style have very high expectations and high demands of their children, yet provide very little in the way of responsive feedback in nurturance.

The parents often tightly monitor their children. These parents exhibit a large amount of control over their children's decisions and behaviors. The Lisbon sisters could not find any happiness to enjoy their teenage life. It is time for them is to enrich friendship in school, community or organization, socialize not only with fellow gender but also interact with the opposite gender.

Doctor : I don't think Cecilia truly meant to end her life. Her act was a cry for help. I know you're very strict, but I think that Cecilia would benefit by having social outlet outside of the codification of school, where she could interact with males her own age. (Scene: 00:07:11)

In the scene, when Cecilia is hospitalized and the doctor asks the reason why she tried to commit suicide. Cecilia tells the doctor about her feeling in adolescent period. Cecilia mentions that the doctor doesn't understand to live in girl teenager condition. It looks like Cecilia doesn't enjoy adolescence since she lives under pressure. Cecilia cannot express what she feels since Mr. and Mrs. Lisbon do not give her enough space to excite her thoughts and feelings.

The parents do not encourage verbal take and give, believing that the child should accept the parent's word for granted. For example, many children complain that they cannot do anything without being under the watchful eyes of their mother and father. No matter where the children are or what they are doing, the parents always follow every inch of step the children take. In the conversation below the doctor gives some suggestions to Mr. and Mrs. Lisbon in order not to be too strict with their children (scene: 00:07:11).

Scene 00:38:33 is the situation when they have break time in school. The Lisbon sisters eat their snacks in the school park together without interaction with other students. When Trip, their friend, tries to be nice to them by approaching and greeting Lux, Lux ignores Trip. They barely do social interaction with other students.

#### 2. Authoritarian Parents with an Iron Fist

Parents who utilize this type of parenting style might be referred to as "bossy", "high strung," or controlling and abusive. Mrs. Lisbon is being too protective to control the appearance of how Lux dresses up. In scene at 00:07:54, Mrs. Lisbon asks Lux to put on her shirt to cover her tank top. It is a dinner occasion where all families gather to have quality time. Mrs. Lisbon thinks that the dress which Lux is wearing is so extroverted that Mrs. Lisbon asks Lux to cover it with a proper shirt. Wearing an extroverted dress in western culture is a common thing. However, this cannot be applied under Mrs. Lisbon's rules. Mrs. Lisbon limits the freedom of her children to express even the way of dress up. This scene shows that the facial expression of Lux becomes so gloomy when Mrs. Lisbon asks her to cover the tank top. Another scene of this issue is at 00:49:54 when all the Lisbon sisters go shopping for a homecoming party. All of Lisbon's sisters go together with Mrs. Lisbon to a cloth fabric store. Mrs. Lisbon is holding a role in determining which pattern of the dresses. It makes no difference because whichever dress patterns Lisbon sisters want to choose, at the end it is Mrs. Lisbon who make the final decision. Mrs. Lisbon adds an inch to the bust line and two to the waist and hems. Mrs. Lisbon doesn't want that the dress is too extroverted. So, the dresses come out as four identical sacks. In scene 00:12:08 there are five pairs of Lisbon sisters' shoes near the doorstep that are the same, both the design and the color. Even the children don't like them, they have to accept the parent's decision.

#### 3. Authoritarian Parents with Rigid Rules

Firm means to be certain, definite, and determined. Firm in authoritarian parenting is a certain rule which cannot be changed. For example, authoritarian parents probably would not relax bedtime rules during vacation because they consider the rules to be set and they expect obedience should be applied all the time. In the scene at 00:43:27, Trip visits Lux and all Lisbon sisters. Together with Mr. and Mrs. Lisbon, they gather in the living room watching TV together. When Trip is still watching TV, Mrs. Lisbon implicitly tells Trip to leave the home since it is already late at night which means it is time for Trip to go home. It means that for Mrs. Lisbon a rule is a rule and Mrs. Lisbon won't change that. She expects all of her children follow the rules at all times without excuses, not even when a special guest visits. Mrs. Lisbon puts a high value on conformity and obedience.

As mentioned above an authoritarian parent attempts to shape and evaluate the behavior and attitudes of children following a set standard of conduct, usually an absolute standard, theologically motivated and formulated by a higher authority. Authoritarian style is less freedom received by the children. It means less pleasure as well. As per the scene below Trip asks permission to Mr. Lisbon to invite Lux for a homecoming party. However, Trip gets a rejection by Mr. Lisbon (scene: 00:46:28).

#### 4. Authoritarian with Limit for Fun

A good moment for teenagers is the time to have fun or hang out with their friends. However, Mrs. Lisbon is not sure to allow their children to go out in a car (Scene: 00:51:45). Mrs. Lisbon becomes overprotective of her children. Mrs. Lisbon asks who will drive the car and she mentions that she barely allows her children to go out in cars unless for urgent or important matters. It means that the children barely go out. Their life is only at home and school. They live in the box, not like teenagers in common who can go out freely to the mall, beach, and other amusement places. This treatment could lead to several impacts on the children. The people must live in balance to find happiness. However, this would not happen in the Lisbon family. Most parents certainly mean well. They want the best for their children no matter how hard the struggle and effort they do to raise and educate their children. Parents should get involved with their children's lives as positive mentors, teachers, and guides. In a society, the parents must take care of their children's feelings, successes, and goals. Unfortunately, some mothers and fathers might do too much for their children. This can inhibit their children's ability to learn how to live life independently.

#### 5. Authoritarian with Strict Control

This is the culmination of the parenting taking too much control over their children. Just because one of the children makes a mistake, it doesn't mean the rest of the children also get the impacts. The behavior of the parents becomes unfair to the children. Mistakes tend to be punished harshly. When feedback does occur, it is often negative. However, the very bad mistake that Lux has made leads to a miserable life. Mr. and Mrs. Lisbon become angry as per scene 01:06:30. The Narrator says, given Lux's failure to make curfew, most people think a crackdown is imposed on all Lisbon sisters, Nevertheless, few people anticipated that it would be so drastic. The girls are taken out of school.

#### **B.** Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse can happen to anyone at any time. Children, teens, and adults all experience emotional abuse. One definition of emotional abuse is: "any act including isolation, verbal assault, humiliation, intimidation, or any other treatment which may diminish the sense of identity, dignity, and self-worth" (Tracy,2016).

People who suffer from emotional abuse tend to have very low self-esteem, show personality changes (such as becoming withdrawn), and may even become depressed, anxious, or suicidal. Also, emotional abuse can have devastating consequences on relationships and all those involved. In scene 01:06:32, Mrs. Lisbon commits emotional abuse to the children. Mrs. Lisbon shuts the house in maximum security and makes them untouchable with the outside world besides home. She has done more than just taking the girls out of school. After the homecoming party incident, Mrs. Lisbon becomes crueler to the children.

In scene 01:06:45, Mrs. Lisbon insists Lux burn all of her favorite vinyl records. That Sunday, arriving home from a church sermon, Mrs. Lisbon commands and screams out loud to Lux to destroy her rock records. Lux cries out loud at that time. However, Ms. Lisbon doesn't care and does not have any feeling of compassion. Mrs. Lisbon is very vicious with Lux. Even she does not allow Lux to keep one of her favorite vinyl records.

Besides isolating, the parents also deny emotional responsiveness. They don't care about what the children feel. The parents can be emotionally uncontrollable to the children, neglecting the feeling of the children, being away physically and emotionally, and neglecting the love and affection of the children. The worst part is when Mrs. Lisbon does not allow her children to go anywhere outside the home (scene 01:14:46).

# THE IMPACTS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL DISORDER TO ALL LISBON SISTERS

Lisbon sisters are the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Lisbon who suffer from psychological disorders because of the bad treatment they receive from their parents. Psychological disorders can be seen from the beginning of the movie until the end. The worst case is when they attempt to commit suicide until at the end they successfully and tragically end their life. Each of Lisbon's sisters shows drastically emotional change because of a psychological disorder.

#### A. Major Depression

Depression is a common but serious mood disorder. It causes severe symptoms that affect how people feel, think, and handle daily activities, such as sleeping, eating, or working. The following are the symptoms of depression.

#### 1. Reduction in Gratification

Reduction in gratification means that the people who live in depression experience partial loss of life satisfaction. Life satisfaction is defined as one's evaluation of life as a whole, such as a state of emotion, like happiness. Depressed people lose their interest to join activities that they used to enjoy. They do not have any spirit to get involved in those activities. These symptoms usually happen with depressed people. In scene 00:12:23, after the first suicide attempt by Cecilia, Mr. Lisbon persuades Mrs. Lisbon to allow their daughters to hold the first and only party in their home. Mr. and Mrs. Lisbon decorate their home so beautifully with some colorful balloons, provide delicious food and tasty drink and give lovely invitations to some of the teenage boys in the neighborhood to join the party. The Lisbon sisters do preparation such as dress-up to attend the party. Therese also does grooming to Cecilia by covering a scar on Cecilia's hand with beautiful bracelets. All Lisbon sisters feel pleased with the party except Cecilia. She doesn't enjoy the party at all. Lux, Bonnie, Mary, and Therese get along with some boys. They chat with each other. On the contrary, Cecilia sits alone in the corner of the room, away from the crowd (00:13:08). Here, Cecilia enters a mild level of reduction in gratification where she no longer finds pleasure in that kind of fun activity. In the scene, everyone gathers near Cecilia to cheer her up by making jokes especially on Joe, one of the neighbor boys. He becomes the center of jokes that evening.

Joe : Hi!

Cecilia : Hi. (response with plain facial expression)

Boys 1 : Joe! Good to see you. How are you?

Boys 2 : Hey Joe, Glad you came tonight. How's it going? You're just in time

Joe : Good, Hi!

Boys 3 : Everyone look! His ears wiggle if you scratch his chin Everyone: Laughing (except Cecilia only keeps silent) (Scene: 00:15:42)

In the dialogue, everyone in that room laughs out loud with the jokes but Cecilia only keeps silent. Depressed people won't need any happiness to have a conversation with others, engage in love or friendship, or attract public attention in front of a lot of people. Depressed people feel some of their joy has disappeared from their life. Another scene below shows that Cecilia has already undergone the next level that is moderate. At a moderate level, depressed people find it easy to get bored even with a delightful activity. The time of boredom will always come back no matter how interesting the activity is. Depressed people only react with flat response for any kind of enjoyable activity (scene: 00:16:11).

Cecilia chooses to leave the party early since she feels bored and doesn't find any excitement with the party. Cecilia asks permission from Mrs. Lisbon to go to her room instead of joining the party with her sisters and neighbors. Even though Mr. and Mrs. Lisbon have already created a delightful party for Cecilia, it can be seen that the reduction in gratification still appears in Cecilia.

Another example of the reduction in gratification is in scene 01:06:31. Mary lays down in her room flipping the magazine and her facial expression shows she feels bored. Bonnie also does the same thing as what Mary does by playing with her bracelet and she feels bored, too. They no longer find amusement in isolation. The isolation creates a boring situation for them, even an activity like reading a magazine cannot relieve the boredom situation.

#### 2. Dejected mood

The dejected mood is the feeling of miserable, blue, sad, unhappy conditions of depressed people. The Lisbon sisters are already at a severe level of depression. This picture showed in the scene at 01:06:29 when they live in maximum high isolation. Depressed people feel sad all the time and they only keep it to themselves. They cannot express what they feel. They look so gloomy since all of them are trapped in the house and can touch the outside world anymore. In this scene, Therese lays down in her room and looks at nothing on the wall with an empty mind and a sad face.

#### 3. Loss of Mirth Response

Depressed people will not feel amused with humor or funny jokes. They lose the ability to absorb any construct of a humorous story. It is difficult for them to understand a joke where most people will be entertained with that. Even the funniest joke couldn't make Cecilia laugh. Here, Cecilia has entered a severe stage of Loss of Mirth Response level. In the scene at 00:08:46, Mr. and Mrs. Lisbon invites Peter to have dinner with the Lisbon family. Lux makes a joke with Peter. However, only Bonnie and Mary laugh at the joke. Cecilia is not moved at all (scene: 00:08:46). Cecilia only freezes there like a statue, and she doesn't respond to the joke. She doesn't laugh or feels no pleasure in humor. Cecilia feels hurt by the joke. Cecilia has lost her sense of humor.

#### 4. Loss of Emotional Attachments

Loss of emotion, in this case, means loss of interest to interact with either family members or friends. People might think depressed people who lose emotional involvement do not care about anything anymore, including relationships. People also might think that depressed people are being distant or aloof. Chase tries to be friendly to Mary when both of them meet in the lockers area in school by asking the condition of Mary after the miserable event of Cecilia's suicide (scene 00:32:37). Mary just gives only a quick and cold response. She only says that she is in good condition then she leaves Chase hastily. However, Chase never gives up, he tries his second effort to be more friendly with Mary as in the following scene. Chase approaches Mary for the second attempt in the lockers area in school but Mary's response is as cold as an ice (scene: 00:34:02). When Chase introduces himself to Mary, Mary only responds with a sarcastic reply. The statement "You don't have to talk to me" implicitly shows Mary doesn't want to get along with other students. Mary is entering a mild level of loss of emotional attachments where in this level depressed people avoid getting involved in any activity with other people. Mary prefers not to talk with others. She may feel more independent. She thinks it is enough for her to communicate with her sisters instead of making friends with others. She limits her friendship with others. For depressed people who have to face early traumas such as loss, neglect, or any type of abuse, trust can prove to be very difficult to be applied. In many cases, the person with depression who has experienced those life challenges may vacillate from extremes as in trusting too much or trusting too little. The depressed people mostly

A PSYCHOLOGICAL... (PRIYOTO & NINIES)

show no longer experiencing the need to get along or think about having a good relationship with friends.

# **B.** Suicidal Behavior Disorder

Suicidal behavior emerges because of serious potential consequences of mental disorders such as depression and borderline personality disorder and other situations like the death of a loved one, emotional trauma, or drug or alcohol use. Severe patients with mental disorders would lead to attempt suicide and the worst thing happens when they successfully do suicide. Suicidal behavior is any action that can cause a person to die, such as taking a drug overdose or crashing a car on purpose. They will find a way to end their lives even though it will result in great big pain.

In scene 00:01:19 it is the first attempt at suicide by Cecilia. Cecilia is found sunk in her bathtub full of water. She cuts her wrist with a razor. There is blood splattering both in the bathtub and on the floor around the bathtub. Gratefully Cecilia is still saved from this attempted suicide since Mr. and Mrs. Lisbon come and save Cecilia at the right time. At 00:01:18 Cecilia was saved by medicine and brought by ambulance to the hospital. At 00:01:46 she is still alive and after having attempted suicide, she was hospitalized and got intensive care from the doctor and nurse. Among all Lisbon sisters, only Cecilia gets intensive care from the Doctor and Psychologist.

In scene 00:17:57 Cecilia commits a second suicide attempt. After Cecilia has a reduction in gratification and loss of mirth response, she indicates the symptom that leads to suicidal attempt. It is the night when Mr. and Mrs. Lisbon hold a party for Cecilia as suggested by the psychologist. Unfortunately, Cecilia still does not find any amusement at all.

Cecilia is the first who leaves the party and after that, she does suicide by jumping from the window but her body is stuck in a fence. Mr. Lisbon is the first person who finds out that Cecilia's suicide. Cecilia cannot be saved anymore and she died. From the diary that is found by her neighbor, in scene 00:24:18, the reason for the suicide is not only depression. Cecilia also has emotional instability. Cecilia is a dreamer; she is completely out of touch with reality. When she jumped from the window, she probably thought she would fly. In the scene, the news anchor on television gives the opinion from Cecilia's accident-related with depressed life of a teenager who lives under pressure that leads to committing suicide.

News Anchor: Psychologists agree that adolescence today is much more fraught by pressures and complexities than in years past. More and more doctors say this frustration can lead to acts of violence, whose reality the adolescent cannot separate from its intended drama (scene: 00:28:20)

#### C. Borderline Personality Disorder

People who suffer from Borderline Personality Disorder are totally sensitive. Individuals with borderline personality disorder have a scheme of an unstable personalities. They find it difficult to manage their own emotions. There might be an identity disturbance characterized by markedly and persistently unstable self-image or sense of self. Although they have a bad side of characterization, this personality may at times not show that side.

In this part, the writer focuses on Lux since, in the movie, Lux is suffering from borderline personality disorder (BDP) because of the authoritarian parenting style from Mr. and Mrs. Lisbon. As mentioned before, there are two impacts of authoritarian parenting style, the first is the children become depressed and the second is the children become rebels, liars, and have unstable personality as one of the symptoms of BDP.

#### 1. Abandonment Fear

This is the main factor of BDP, the fear of abandonment which happens when an individual is alone. It will distract the stability of his/her personality. Even feelings of emptiness occur in this stage. Scene 01:19:24 shows the changes in Lux's personality. she used to have a warm and friendly personality and she used to like to make jokes. The maximum isolation imposed by Mr. and Mrs. Lisbon has created a destructive personality of Lux. Lux shows severe mood swings and arises feelings of emptiness. In this scene, Lux feels the emptiness of her life. Lux chooses to withdraw and be alone instead of having communication with her sisters. The fear of abandonment is more visible when Trip ignores and does not contact Lux anymore. People who are experiencing a mood swing that's been going on for more than a few weeks will seriously affect their relationship with their family members or friends.

#### 2. Unstable Interpersonal Relationships

BDP leads to chaotic relationships in a family, lover, or friends. BDP can't maintain good relationships anymore with people around them. In the scene at 01:14:16, all of Lisbon's sisters gather in the room where Bonnie and Mary have a conversation to discuss the activity they will do together (they do makeup tutorial). Lux chooses to be away, sitting alone in the corner of the room near the window instead of joining with her sister. Lux becomes like this since she was left by Trip, her first love. Leaving with a broken heart makes Lux suffer from an unstable interpersonal relationship with the environment. On a severe stage, someone who suffers from BDP, in which relationship disturbance is the main factor of self-destructive behavior, can lead to a suicide attempt.

#### 3. Identity Disturbance

People with BPD may change their identity when they are with others. The authoritarian parenting style that Lisbon sisters, especially Lux, receive creates personality disturbance in the forms of rebel and liar. Rebellion can cause young people to rebel against their self-interests such as rejecting childhood experiences. Rebellion symptom is breaking any rules. People with rebellion symptoms know about the rules and the consequences on themselves and the people around them if they ignore the rules. However, they still do it. Rebellion shows up in many different ways, how a person dresses, talks, and behaves. It used to be an act of rebellion. In scene 00:08:31, Lux has dinner with all members of the family in the dining room. There is one of Lisbon's sisters' schoolmates, named Peter who is invited by Mr. Lisbon to join the dinner. They enjoy dinner together. On that occasion, Lux teases Peter by touching Peter's leg. While the other sisters show a polite attitude towards Peter, Lux shows a contradictory attitude to draw Peter's attention by doing something inappropriate.

At 00:33:05 Lux is smoking in the school restroom. She becomes more aggressive. In general, school is a prohibited place to smoke; however, Lux still does that even though she knows about the rules. In scene 00:34:57 Lux is hanging out with some different boys on different days in school. This portrayal showed in scene 00:34:53, one of the boys in school gives an opinion about Lux. The boy says Lux is the hottest girl in the school for sure. So, no wonder every boy is happy being around Lux.

Lux's rebellious behavior is more visible when she has a relationship with a bad boy whom almost all girls in the school admire. His name is Trip. Trip brings more negative impacts to Lux. Trip, who likes marijuana, alcohol, and smoking, plunges Lux to become more rebellious. It happens because as a teenager Lux is easily influenced by friends. In scene 00:45:36 Trip visits Lux's home. It is already late at night and it is time for all Lisbon sisters (Mr. and Mrs. Lisbon limit curfew for their children) to sleep. Mr. and Mrs. Lisbon even still does bedtime checks every night to make sure all of the children already go to bed and sleep. However, Lux and Trip spend the night together in the

car. What Lux has done is how she rebels against the strict rules of Mr. and Mrs. Lisbon.

In the scene below, the Lisbon sisters go to homecoming with the boys. Before arriving at the party, they decide to stop the car and Lux starts to smoke together with the boys (scene:00:54:52). When Bonnie reminds Lux to stop smoking in conversation by saying, "Dad will smell it on you." Bonnie is sure that Mr. Lisbon will be suspicious because the smell of the smoke will stay on Lux's dress. However, Lux is becoming stubborn and does not want to listen to what Bonnie says to her. Lux thinks she can deceive her father by saying it is not her that smokes but some kids do smoke and the smell adheres to Lux's clothes. She still enjoys smoking with the boys. Among all of Lisbon's sisters, only Lux does smoke. The homecoming scenes also show the rebellious side of Lux when Trip offers her alcohol. Then, they both enjoy it (scene:00:57:53).

All of the students enjoy the homecoming party. While the other students have fun by dancing with their partners, Lux and Trip decide to leave the party and sneak out under the stage, so no one can see both of them. Lux and Trip enjoy the conversation with each other. Trip offers Lux alcohol. Both of them drink it. Not long after that, Bonnie and her partner follow Lux and Trip to sneak out under the stage. In that scene, Lux gives a bad impact on her sister by forcing Bonnie to drink alcohol even though Bonnie doesn't like it. At first, Trip offers the alcohol to Bonnie but She ignores it. Trip still insists on Bonnie trying the alcohol and Lux does too. Then, finally, Bonnie wants to try it.

Lux's personality has changed especially when she meets with Trip. A good girl's personality of Lux has disappeared and she becomes uncontrolled. The peak happens after homecoming is over. Lux doesn't go back home meanwhile Bonnie, Mary, and Therese return home. Trip asks Lux to walk in the school field (scene: 01:01:13.). She stays with Trip together in the school field. Lux breaks curfew from Mr. and Mrs.

Lisbon. She doesn't inform her parents about this. As mentioned before, rigid and strict rules sometimes make children disobey their parents. However, in this case, Lux's personality is considered destructive behavior. Related to Erik Erikson's psychosocial stages theory, All of Lisbon's daughters are entering adolescence. During this stage, adolescents are looking for their identity, through an intense exploration of personal values, beliefs, and goals. Failure to establish their identity within society can lead to role confusion. Role confusion involves the individual not being sure about themselves or their place in society. In response to role confusion or identity crisis, an adolescent may begin to experiment with different lifestyles (e.g. work, education, or political activities). Also, pressuring someone into an identity can result in rebellion in the form of establishing a negative identity, and in addition to this feeling of unhappiness. (Mcleod, 2013). Lux is the only one of the Lisbon Sisters that become a rebel and liar as a result of role confusion.

#### 4. Emptiness

The concept of emptiness in this case is where the individual leads to meaninglessness or emotional void. This happens because of personality disturbance where someone feels empty. The moment of chronic sense that happens in daily life has little worth or significance and dramatic relationship experiences. The personality of Lux has changed from time to time. At first, she has a warm personality, and then she becomes rebellious and a liar and at the end, she becomes gloomy and always sad all the time especially because of high isolation and also when her boyfriend decides not to meet with her anymore. A part of Lux is lost. Emptiness fills in the feeling of Lux. Lux mostly becomes silent and pensive. In scene 01:10:17, Lux spends the time alone on the roof at midnight, sitting, smoking, and staring with an empty mind. Emptiness has filled her heart since she broke up with Trip.

#### 5. Impulsive, self-destructive behaviors

Here, BPD (Borderline Personality Disorder) becomes a rebel and liar, engaging in dangerous activity especially when they are angry. In the scene at 01:08:52, Lux has intercourse with random boys and men on the rooftop of her home at midnight. Lux does it with random men, even with someone she has just met, such as a burger delivery guy. In scene 01:09:55, Lux does it with another random guy. As a result of high isolation and due to Trip's decision to end his relationship with Lux and he does not contact Lux anymore. She looks for another outlet for anger as compensation. It might make Lux back to normal from the personality disturbance and feel better for a short time. However, these things cannot hold for a long time. Lux will become weak and sad again and it always like this, recurrence might happen again and again.

# CONCLUSION

The Virgin Suicides is a movie that tells about the depressed life of all Mr. and Mrs. Lisbon's daughters that lead them into severe impacts, that is committing suicide. Due to authoritarian rules and emotional abuse from the parents, the children live under pressure causing several bad effects such as depression, borderline personality disorder, and, even, committing suicide.

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