Assessing People's Willingness to Participate in Counter Violent Extremism Programmes: The Development of Counterradicalism Readiness Scale (CoRS)

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ABSTRACT: Counterterrorism approach in Indonesia emphasizes on prevention rather than prosecution. Radicalism could lead to the acts of terrorism; hence, in terms of terrorism prevention, the role of civil society is significant in avoiding radicalization of people. Here lies the urgency of community empowerment. As an instrument to examine people's readiness in preventing terrorism is unclear, this study was held. The study intends to formulate an instrument for measuring counterradicalism readiness (called 'CoRS'). It aimed to evaluate people's readiness to be involved in counterradicalism and CVE (Counter Violent Extremism) programs. The development of CoRS was organized into detailed steps: 1) defining counterradicalism readiness and its aspects, 2) identifying behaviour indicators of counterradicalism readiness, 3) making items for scale, 4) performing items' readability test, 5) conducting pilot study, and 6) holding statistical analysis. Quantitative method was applied in this study by involving 19 security practitioners to assess CoRS' content-related validity and 227 participants for the instrument's reliability (with Alpha Cronbach and Omega McDonnald). The findings demonstrate the efficacy of CoRS' items in measuring counterradicalism readiness. Furtmermore, CoRS reaches satisfactory reliability $\alpha=0.92$ and $\omega=0.93$. The study may assist practitioners in identifying people's readiness and willingness to participate in counterradicalism programs.

KEYWORDS: Counterterrorism, People's Readiness, Participation, Religious Radicalism, Terrorism, Extremism, Programmes

INTRODUCTION

Terrorism prevention is a continuous activity involving all national elements, as the potential for terrorism never dies and is dynamic in the midst of society. The potential for terrorism is closely related to radicalism, which is connected to religion and certain political motives. Terrorism is a manifestation of such concept. It is possible to state that terrorism is the climax of radicalism (Achmad, 2016). Terrorism has complexity where its definition depends on the perspective of the beholders. Therefore, there are hundreds of terrorism definition and each of them have different point of emphasis, such as origins, attributes, symbols, motives, goals, methods, networks, etc. However, all of them have two underlying concepts, namely politics and violence (Minderop, n.d.; Ramadhyas, 2020). Terrorism consists of two words, 'terror', and 'ism'. The words 'terror' comes

from the Latin *terrere,* which means to shake or to frighten. 'Terror' means an act to terrify others, while 'ism' refers to a concept. Therefore, terrorism etymologically means a concept, in which the action means to terrify others (Jajang, 2016; Nur, 2017). So long as extreme radicalism circulates and spread in the society, there will always be potential for terrorism (Heriansyah, 2022). The propagation of radical concept in various methods inserted into naratives, which the radical-terror groups deliver directly or through media, has resulting in the society being exposed to radicalism without them realizing it. Online media and social media are the effective means to propagate such concept, based on the survey conducted by the National Counter-terrorism Agency of the Republic of Indonesia (BNPT RI) (Musi, 2020; Lauran, 2016; Taryono et al, 2019).

In Indonesia, the BNPT's counterterrorism approach emphasizes on prevention rather than prosecution. This is in accordance with a classic proverb, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". According to the Law no. 5 of 2018 in the Government Regulation no. 77 of 2019, concerning the Prevention of Criminal Acts of Terrorism and Protection for investigators, public prosecutors, judges, and correctional officers, there are soft-power measures addressed to the community at large as a form of: 1) granting thought and ideological immunity, 2) therapy for the community tainted with radicalism, and 3) cure for the radicals (Heriansyah, 2020). Radicalism is a concept that aspires fundamental and comprehensive changes to the political system, government, and state. Meanwhile, the process of radicalizing one's thoughts and actions is called radicalization (Galib et al, 2021; Nailul, 2018; Achmad, 2016; Tim Forum Kajian Ilmiah Afkar, 2019). Some instances underlie radicalism. One of which is the concept of religion. Radicalism that leads to the acts of terrorism is a form of deviation from religious teachings. This happens due to assumption, presumption, interpretation, and concept that terrorism is part of religious teachings triggered by factors, such as ignorance, narrow-mindedness, insincerity of a radical's heart (Isnanto, 2015; Setiawandari et al., 2020). Therefore, the prevention of terrorism must lead to the prevention of radicalism. Take a tree for example, if radicalism acts as the trunk, the branch, and the twig, then terrorism is the fruit (Musi, 2020).

Despite its political aims, in reality, radicalization transpires through social movements carried out by individuals, groups, communities, institutions, and non-government social organizations, which are self-supporting through direct interaction or media. Social media is the most effective means of radicalization as they are easy to personalize, easy to use, relatively safe, and low-cost. A sociology (social science) approach is required to understand this phenomenon, in order to figure out methods, strategies, and techniques for just, equal, and balanced radicalism prevention (Arief, 2019; Maurice, 2014). The government is obliged to prevent terrorism in accordance with the article 43A of the Law no. 5 of 2018 the principle of protecting human rights and the principle of prudence. The attempts of prevention carried out through a. national alertness; b. counter radicalization; c. deradicalization. Community empowerment in national alertness is shown in article 43B paragraph 4, which is the legal basis for public involvement in preventing radicalism.

In details, public involvement in national alertness is regulated in the Government Regulation no. 77 of 2019 article 5, that (1) Community empowerment is conducted by a. encouraging public groups and organization to play an active role in the Prevention of Criminal Acts of Terrorism, in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations; b. increasing institutional capacity of public groups and organizations to be actively involved in the Prevention of Criminal Acts of Terrorism; c. conveying information regarding the Prevention of Criminal Acts of Terrorism to the public and receiving the same from them; d. providing education about the threat and effect of the Criminal Acts of Terrorism through formal, non-formal, and informal education; and e. other communities empowerment based on the provisions of the legislation. The national alertness refers to the people's readiness in anticipating threats to a nation. In terms of terrorism prevention, the role of civil society is significant in avoiding radicalization of people. The society becomes the arena and battlefield of radicalization and counter-radicalization. Here lies the urgency of community empowerment (Heriansyah, 2022).

In terms of the readiness in anticipating terrorism, Indonesian law enforcement collaborates with non-government organizations to create and disseminate counterradicalism narratives in order to establish public readiness. However, there is no accurate measuring instrument to assess public readiness in preventing terrorism. In fact, prior to conducting community empowerment, an assessment to evaluate people's counterradicalism readiness should have been measured. The measured readiness includes three domains: 1) cognition (thoughts), 2) affection (feelings), and 3) community psychomotor (behavior). Apart from anticipating terrorism, if people doubt the usefulness of terrorism, they will eventually suffer from a disease that cannot be treated with physical medicine (Psychotherapy). Therefore, it is possible to treat the condition with the power of his soul. He treated the disease by protecting himself from Allah, asking for His help and assistance so that he would be cured and so that the condition would be free from him. His heart became clear, his attitude became steadfast, and he gained certainty about knowledge. In Islamic psychology, Islamic psychotherapy has also been developed, such as tahajjud prayer therapy, dhikr therapy, and so on, all of which have been scientifically proven to reduce mental disorders significantly (Johnson, 2008; Senduk, 2019; Rafik, 2020).

Against this background, this study intends to formulate an instrument for measuring counterradicalism readiness (called 'CoRS'). It aimed to evaluate people's readiness to be involved in the empowerment or other CVE (Counter Violent Extremism) programs by counterterrorism units. This study may help measures people's readiness in contributing to terrorism prevention, which is in order to reach an effectiveness (for instance, only those who are ready or willing to be involved will participate in CVE programs, not vice versa).

METHODS

The development of CoRS was organized into detailed steps: 1) defining counterradicalism readiness and its aspects, 2) identifying behaviour indicators of counterradicalism readiness, 3)

Table 1.0 Development of Cors

Steps	Description
Step 1: defining counterradicalism readiness and its aspects	For a construct, 'counterradicalism readiness' examined in this study refers to "a readiness to be involved in counterradicalism programmes" based on literature review. The individual's counterradicalism readiness will be measured in the domains of cognition, emotion, and action.
Step 2: identifying behaviour indicators of counterradicalism readiness	At this step, counterradicalism readiness was described in a matrix of behaviour indicators based on literature review. Expert judgment was then held by holding a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with nineteen security practitioners to validate the indicators. The expert judgment was held offline in Jakarta on 9 February 2022 and has reached ≥80% agreement for these indicators.
Step 3: Making items for scale	After indicators were validated, items for the scale were built. At this step, the researcher made 99 items for CoRS.
Step 4: Performing items' readability test	At this step, the researcher held an online meeting with sixteen security practitioners and a psychometrician to review the items. These people review the readability of items, which is to examine if each item is clear and readable. Criticized items were modified to meet the request of the item's reviewers.
Step 5: Conducting pilot study	A pilot study was held by recruiting people to fill the scale with consent. The researcher explained that the scale would not cause any legal consequences, hence it would be kept anonymous to assure the respondent's identity confidentiality. The researcher performed purposive sampling and involved 227 participants.
Step 6: Holding statistical analysis	Quantitative analysis was performed at this step to examine each item and assess the reliability of CoRS. Statistical analysis used JASP (Jeffreys's Amazing Statistics Program) to examine the loading factor of each item and the internal consistency of the scale. This review process involved a psychometrician in assessing the quantitative efficacy of each item. An item with a loading factor below 0,50 was eliminated from the scale.

making items for scale, 4) performing items' readability test, 5) conducting pilot study, and 6) holding statistical analysis. Quantitative method was applied in this study, Explanation in table 1.0. 19 security practitioners were involved in this study for administering Step 2 (expert judgement) in validating behaviour indicators of CoRS, between the age of 24 to 58 (3 females, 16 males).

Moreover, at the readability test of items (Step 4), 16 security practitioners and a psychometrician were involved in the readability test of items. To define psychometry properties (Step 5), this study involved 227 participants from different cities in Indonesia such as Ambon, Bandung, Bekasi, Belitung, Blora, Bogor, Depok, Garut, Gresik, Jakarta, Kupang, Magelang, Malang, Medan, Pangkalpinang, Pasuruan, Poso, Purwakarta, Samarinda, Solo, Surakarta, Tangerang, and Yogyakarta. Their ages were ranged between 18 and 67 (145 females, 82 males). Their educations were ranged from high school to doctoral programs. Their occupations were varied such as students, police officers, public servants, entrepreneurs, and lecturers.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The finding of this study defines satisfactory 20 (of 99) items of CoRS which have acceptable loading factors. Table 1.1 describes the items. Applying the Likert scale ("strongly agree", "agree", "disagree", and "strongly disagree"), CoRS consists of 20 items in examining counterradicalism readiness of an individual. The lowest option is scored as "1" while the highest is "4" for each item's response (as seen in Table 2). Further, Table 1.2 shows CoRS's norm. The range of 20 to 35 is categorized into a "zero" level of readiness, whereas 36 to 50 is "low", 51 to 65 is "medium", and 66 to 80 is "high". The norm is based on the instrument (possible scores of respondents) rather than the pilot study (Step 5). To examine CoRS' reliability, an internal consistency (with *Cronbach's Alpha* and *McDonnald's Omega*) was assessed.

Table 1.1. CoRS' Items

Domains	Names of Item	Loading Factors (with Confirmatory Factor Analysis/CFA)
Cognition	AK1	0.60
	CK1	0.66
	CK2	0.60
	CK4	0.65
	CK7	0.79
	CK8	0.66
Emotion	AA1	0.64
	AA2	0.70
	AA5	0.64
	BA5	0.56
	CA2	0.58
	CA5	0.71
	CA6	0.67
Psychomotor	AP3	0.72
	AP5	0.72
	CP2	0.62
	CP4	0.63
	CP5	0.67
	CP8	0.69
	DP9	0.75

Table 1.2. CoRS' Scoring

Options	Scores
Strongly agree	4
Agree	3
Disagree	2
Strongly disagree	1

Table 1.3. CoRS' Norm

Categories of Counterradicalism Readiness	Range of scores
Zero	20 – 35
Low	36 – 50
Medium	51 – 65
High	66 – 80

Table 1.4. CoRS' Reliability

Scale Reliability Statistics		
	Cronbach's α	McDonald's ω
Counterradicalism readiness Scale (CoRS)	0.92	0.93

The findings show that the statistical investigation of CoRS' reliability (N=227) is α= 0.92 and ω=0.93 (Table 1.4). CoRS' content-related validity is proved in the process of expert judgements (Step 2 and Step 4). Interrater judgement for behaviour indicators of counterradicalism readiness reaches ≥80% agreement. Furthermore, the items' readability test was performed to ensure the qualitative efficacy of each item. This study involved 39 security practitioners and a psychometrician for expert judgement and 227 respondents in pilot study.

The results have found satisfactory 20 items of CoRS with loading factors similar or higher than 0.50. In terms of psychometry properties, CoRS' reliability (N=227) is α= 0.92 and ω=0.93. CoRS shows satisfactory content-related validity with ≥80% agreement amongst raters in expert judgement. The study may assist practitioners in evaluating people's willingness and readiness in contributing to terrorism prevention.

CONCLUSION

Before involving community in counternarrative or Counter Violent Extremism (CVE) programmes, it is necessary to assess people's readiness to participate in counterradicalism. This study aimed to develop the Counterradicalism Readiness Scale (CoRS). Using quantitative study design, this work was arranged into six steps: 1) defining counterradicalism readiness and its aspects, 2) identifying behaviour indicators of counterradicalism readiness, 3) making items for scale, 4) performing items' readability test, 5) conducting pilot study, and 6) holding statistical analysis. The counterradicalism readiness is assessed in three psychological domains: cognition, affection, and psychomotor.

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