

## Brief Report

# Dependent Personality in a Case of Sexual Offence on a Child (A Case Study)

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This discussion is aimed on analyzing the fatal sexual violence incident that occurred in Kediri, East Java on June 27th, 2016. The victim was a three year old boy who was sodomized and thrown to his death by the perpetrator. The perpetrator himself is the victim's uncle (30 years of age), who experienced relatively heavy stress, and an MMPI (*Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory*) indicating normal (heterosexual) sexual orientation, a modest and honest man with a dependent personality. Data was obtained from patient's medical records, interview with psychiatrist in charge of the event, and the mother of the perpetrator to detect influential factors starting from conception to adulthood. An important data is that the perpetrator was once a victim of sexual violence (sodomy) when he was in the first year of primary school, the stressful burden in the family's environment, personal trauma of wife's miscarriage when the embryo was four months old that occurred one month prior to the incident.

*Keywords:* sexual violence, MMPI, sodomy

Kajian ini bertujuan melakukan analisis kasus kekerasan seks yang berakibat fatal, yang terjadi di Kediri Jawa Timur pada 27 Juni 2016. Korban anak laki-laki usia tiga tahun, setelah disodomi kemudian dibanting oleh pelaku, akhirnya korban meninggal dunia. Pelaku dalam kasus tersebut adalah pamannya (30 tahun), dengan stres kehidupan yang relatif berat, dan hasil MMPI (*Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory*) menunjukkan orientasi seks normal (heteroseks), pria yang sederhana dan jujur, dengan kepribadian dependen. Data bahan kajian diperoleh dari rekam medis pasien, wawancara dengan dokter ahli kesehatan jiwa yang menangani kasus ini, dan wawancara dengan ibu pelaku untuk melacak faktor yang diduga berpengaruh, mulai dalam kandungan sampai dewasa. Data penting, pelaku pernah menjadi korban kekerasan seks (disodomi) saat kelas 1 sekolah dasar (SD), beban stres dalam lingkungan keluarga orang tuanya, trauma dalam keluarga yaitu istri mengalami keguguran kandungan pada umur kehamilan empat bulan yang terjadi satu bulan sebelum kasus ini terjadi.

*Kata kunci:* kekerasan seksual, MMPI, sodomi

Sexual violence against children can be seen from a biological as well as sociological viewpoint, and this has a psychological impact on the child. Biologically, a child's vital organs are not yet prepared for intimate relationship, particularly parts that were not intended for sex. When forced, such activity will create permanent damages. When rape occurs, violence occurs as well.

From a social aspect, sexual tendencies are done in secret because perpetrators do not want his behavior to be known by others. Perpetrators will render the victims "mute". One way of doing this is by intimidation or threat of worse punishments when the victim refuses to stay silent.

The act of sexual violence on pedophiles, including sodomy, is a form of sexual violence or law violation that creates physical and psychological effects (Noviana, 2015).

Early prevention of sexual violence is usually done

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by sex education through various media platforms involving various parties (Paramastri, Supriyati, & Priyanto, 2010). The role of various parties is important: individuals and family, society, and the nation. Parents hold a vital role in protecting their children from the threat of sexual violence. Parents need to be very sensitive when detecting unusual behavior from children.

The role of the society should be done with wisdom for the sake of the child's protection; the society should try and heal the victim's mental state. On the other hand, the role of the nation is very strategic to minimize the movement of sex offenders and to create a deterrent effect (Noviana, 2015).

### **Case Chronology**

A three year old boy experienced physical and sexual violence done by his 30 year old uncle. The victim was sodomised, thrown around, sustained serious injury, and died. Post mortem results showed a damaged anus containing sperm. Psychological test and MMPI results indicated that the man is honest, heterosexual, and had dependent personality.

### **Interview Results With the Mother of the Perpetrator**

An interview was done with the victim's parents by visiting the home of his parent. Data was aimed to detect factors suspected to correlate with the perpetrator's behavior, including conditions in the mother's womb, drugs consumed during pregnancy, the presence of trauma during childhood and teenage years, life within the family, and day-to-day behavior.

Results showed the following data: (a) The mother did not consume any particular drugs during pregnancy that could result in infant abnormality; (b) During infancy, childhood, and teenage years, there was no history of head trauma; (c) The perpetrator is the last child of five siblings. In his daily activities, he received much attention from his older siblings and his mother; (d) the father is a seven-year stroke survivor, is always angry, especially to the mother that the perpetrator respected very much; and (e) the perpetrator experienced severe psychological burden when his wife had a miscarriage during her fourth month of pregnancy, the long awaited birth of the first child. When the miscarriage occurs, the medical team delivered the news and the result without empathy.

## **Discussion**

### **Pedophilia Comorbidity**

Pedophilia is sexual attraction towards prepubescent children (Crooks & Baur, 2011). Tenbergen et al. (2015) described seven comorbid factors of a pedophilia case, which are: (1) psychiatric disorders; (2) life stress; (3) genetic factors; (4) childhood sexual abuse; (5) strain of testosterone during pregnancy; (6) psychosexual development disorder; and (7) head injury prior to the age of 13. In this research, factors found within the case are compared with the theory of reference.

### **Dependent Personality Disorder**

Signs of a dependent personality disorder include: (1) pushing or letting others to take a majority of important decisions related to the self; (2) placing the need of the self on a lower scale compared to the need of the person he is dependent upon, and a tendency to excessively self-sacrifice for the dependence target; (3) reluctance to put demands on the dependence target; (4) feelings of discomfort and powerlessness when alone, due to excessive fear of being unable to care for the self; (5) persistent fear of being abandoned by significant others and left to care for the self; (6) lack of ability to make everyday decisions without excessive advice and assurance of others; (7) accompanying description can include powerlessness, lack of competence, and lack of stamina (Bornstein, 1998; Faith, 2009).

### **Case Discussion**

This case showed signs of physical violence on the victim which include a severely damaged anus containing sperm, indicating sexual violence and pedophilia. There is an indication of physical trauma on the victim's head, due to being thrown and slammed on a hard object that led to the victim's death.

Factors suspected to be strongly predictive of child molestation and sexual harassment (pedophilia) include: (1) history of trauma due to sodomy in Year 1 elementary school; (2) trauma history in marriage: miscarriage 1.5 months prior to the incident; (3) stress at home due to the father being a long-time stroke survivor who is rude and unappreciative of the mother; (4) existence of an opportunity: quiet workplace and a child (nephew) that can often be found with the perpetrator; (5) dependent persona-

Table 1  
*Comparison Between Theories Related to Sodomy and Factors Occurring on the Case*

No.	Comorbidity*	Facts on the Kediri Incident, 27/06/2016
1.	Exposure to testosterone hormones during pregnancy	There was no exposure to testosterone hormones during pregnancy
2.	Psychosexual development disorder	The last child who is deeply loved by his mother and siblings
3.	History of head injury prior to the age of 13	No history of head injury
4.	Childhood abuse	A victim of sodomy on the 1st year of elementary school
5.	Genetic factors	No evaluation
6.	Life stress	Father suffered from stroke for 7 years, wife had a miscarriage when the embryo was 4 months old (1 month prior to the incident)
7.	Psychiatric disorders	MMPI: Dependent personality

Note. \*Tenbergen et al., (2015)

lity type, perpetrator “cares and is very close to” the mother.

A person with a dependent personality will respond to a specific form of stress with a reactive pattern. The act of slamming the victim to death because the victim was being uncooperative, defiant, and crying so the perpetrator dares to do the inhumane action.

Past trauma (sodomy) that was unresolved is a serious, buried trauma. If only it was communicated and received psychological rehabilitation, the potential for future problems could be minimized. However, this was not done because sexual violence is considered a shame, and thus not many cases were identified.

Family factors become important, because it gives space for the child to have good communication with the parents. Appropriate information and education about sex is important, early on, children are given the opportunity to say ‘no’ to things that other people (aside from parents) will do to the child’s body (see Table 1).

### The Role of Personality and Life Stress

Daily life stressors, when experienced by individuals with a less optimal personality, will make individuals more susceptible to somatic disorders. On the other hand, those who have a better quality personality, every stressful thing will be understood as a challenge or an obstacle that can be solved.

To avoid somatisation, individuals are hoped to be able to plant and nurture their own pride in a healthy, normal, and proportional manner. Another important thing is to develop a sense of independence early on. A resilient personality needs to be formed and developed so that individuals can withstand demands that become increasingly more difficult, to

be able to practice self-control. Daily life stressors are inescapable and inevitable, but needs to be faced and managed so that the stress does not produce a negative or pathological effect (Hadjam, 2003).

The main question of discussion in this particular case is which factor is the most important. A rational scenario is that a dependent personality gives an opportunity to do non-refusable harm, which is becoming a sodomy victim when he was in the first year of elementary school. This burden is not resolved, shown by the parents and family who knew nothing about the incident. The confession was finally obtained during the interrogation by health workers. Furthermore, the burden of life in the parent’s home and the wife’s miscarriage added to the problem. Then the solution was to force sexual acts on an underaged child who was uncooperative made the perpetrator (with a dependent personality) panic and behaved in an unusual manner.

Therefore, educating to children to have self-pride, independence in their developmental stage, and a realistic sense in facing the burden in life are important factors.

### Conclusion and Suggestion

The case of sexual violence on children will have an extremely negative impact on the child, not only in the short term but also in the long term, especially when it was not addressed appropriately and immediately. No matter how bad the level of violence, any negative effects need to be managed. Timely management will minimize future negative impacts, while an appropriate management will produce a better result.

The following are suggested. Building a better relationship between the child and the parents so that children can have a more transparent commu-

Table 2

*Recommendations to Prevent Incidences of Sexual Violence on Children*

Field	Recommendation
Child	Sex education in early childhood, optimal communication with parents.
Parent	Do not over-protect the child Build the child's personality so he/she has self-pride, and is resilient
Medical professional	Do not easily let your child stay with someone else Communicate with utmost empathy with patients who are sensitive and has an "incomplete" personality
Community	Create mutual respect between community members

nication on everything. Potential trauma will thus be resolved earlier. Correct sex education need to be done as early as possible, and parents (as part of their parental duties) need to constantly monitor their children. Parents should not easily let their children stay with others, because sexual harassments are more likely to be done by people who have a close relationship to the victim. There needs to be continuous effort to build pride, independence, realistic viewpoint and resilience in facing life stresses (see Table 2).

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