

Original Research

The COVID-19 Pandemic and Violence Against Children

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Abstrak - Selama masa pandemi COVID-19, diketahui bahwa angka kekerasan terhadap anak di Indonesia semakin meningkat. Studi ini adalah kajian pustaka dengan tujuan untuk mempelajari alasan terjadinya kekerasan terhadap anak selama pandemi COVID-19 dan upaya pencegahannya. Faktor penyebab umum kekerasan pada anak di masa pandemi COVID-19 merupakan masalah ekonomi akibat pembatasan aktivitas selama pandemi, hubungan anak dengan orang tua yang tidak seimbang, dan rendahnya pengetahuan orang tua terkait pola asuh. Dampak jangka pendek dari kekerasan yang dirasakan anak adalah berdampak pada fisik anak, sedangkan dampak jangka panjangnya berkaitan dengan jiwa anak. Dalam mengatasi masalah kekerasan terhadap anak di masa pandemi COVID-19 harus dilakukan di lingkungan sosial dengan berbagai upaya pencegahan. Pada penelitian ini penulis menyarankan perlu adanya kesadaran, bahwa tindak kekerasan terhadap anak merupakan kejahatan luar biasa yang dapat mengganggu tumbuh kembang anak.

Kata kunci: anak, kekerasan, pandemi

Abstract - During the COVID-19 pandemic, it is known that the number of violence against children in Indonesia is increasing. This study is a literature review with the aim of studying the reasons for violence against children during the COVID-19 pandemic and its prevention efforts. Common causes of violence in children during the COVID-19 pandemic are economic problems due to restrictions on activity during the pandemic, unbalanced relationships between children and parents, and low parental knowledge regarding parenting. The short-term impact of violence felt by children is the physical impact of the child, while the long-term impact is related to the child's soul. In overcoming the problem of violence against children during the COVID-19 pandemic, it must be done in a social environment with various prevention efforts. In this study, the authors suggest that there is a need for awareness, that acts of violence against children are extraordinary crimes that can interfere with children's growth and development.

Keywords: children, violence, pandemic

INTRODUCTION

Virus disease 2019 (COVID-19) The first outbreak was in Wuhan City, China at the end of 2019. Not long after, it spread to various countries in the world. Indonesia confirmed that the first COVID-19 case in Indonesia occurred in Depok City, West Java Province, on March 2, 2020. With so many countries confirming cases of COVID-19, on March 11, 2020 WHO designated COVID-19 as a global pandemic (Tristanto, 2020a; Ihsanuddin, 2020).

Responding to the case, President Joko Widodo through his press statement invited the Indonesian people to reduce various activities outside the home by working, studying, and worshiping from home. The President emphasized that being active at home is a wise step in preventing the spread of the corona virus, because if you continue to do activities in public spaces, you will be at risk of being exposed to the virus (Ratriani, 2020; Tristanto, 2020b).

The President's invitation was carried out by the regional government by implementing the Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB) policy. The legal basis for its implementation is Government Regulation Number 21 of 2020. Based on a government regulation signed by the President on March 31, 2020, it is known that PSBB is a restriction on community activities in an area affected by COVID-19. To regulate as well as detail the government regulations, the Minister of Health of the Republic of Indonesia issued: Regulation of the Minister of Health Number 9 of 2020 on April 3, 2020.

The PSBB policy implemented by the government has an impact on the weakening of the economic condition of families in Indonesia. This can be seen from the declining electricity consumption of rural and urban communities. The Central Statistics Agency (2020) confirmed

that Indonesia's economic growth in the second quarter of 2020 experienced a contraction of 5.32% from year to year. Quarterly growth quarterly (qtoq) the Indonesian economy in the second quarter of 2020 minus 4.19%. In addition, Badan Pusat Statistik (BPS, 2020) confirmed that the contraction in Quarter II-2020 was more critical than the prediction of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Indonesia in the range of minus 3.8% (Viencent, 2020).

The weakening of the family's economic condition worsens the psychology of parents. Problems that can trigger pressure and cause excessive emotions in husbands or wives that make children a place of release (Hutabarat, Krismonika, & Lofa, 2020). On the condition that the child is in a state of being vulnerable to violence, the child does not have his or her own ability to oppose (Wayani, 2020).

There are cases of violence experienced by children during the COVID-19 pandemic, so further studies are needed to problem for got solution from problems that occur. Departing from this, the author tries to examine the factors that cause violence experienced by children during the COVID-19 pandemic and its prevention efforts. This post is expected to be useful for decision makers who set various policies related to handling children's problems during the COVID-19 pandemic.

METHODS

This research is a qualitative research, namely *library research* by examining trusted sources, both in written form and in relevant digital formats without direct involvement. The literature study here is a literature study without being accompanied by an empirical test.

Content analysis *method*. This analysis is used to obtain valid information and can be reviewed based on the context. In this analysis, the process of selecting, comparing, and combining various definitions related to the COVID-19 pandemic and violence against children will be carried out.

There are two sources of data in this study, namely primary sources and secondary sources. The methods and steps used to collect data in this research are the selection of related topics, exploration of information, determination of focus, collection of data sources, preparation of data presentation, and preparation of reports. The data presented is data in the form of words that require processing to be concise and systematic. While the stationery in this article is a *checklist* for the classification of writing materials, writing schemes/maps and the format of written notes.

RESULTS

Violence Against Children

The term violence against children, started by the medical world in 1946, where a radiologist found a form of delinquency as a result of the torture experienced by children on X-rays of children. Since then it, term child *abuse* started introduced. *Child abuse* at that time was only defined as torture or physical violence child (Probosiwi & Bahransyaf, 2015).

Violence against children is theoretically defined as the treatment of physical, mental and sexual acts carried out by adults and which result in social welfare child (Suryanto, 2010). This can be interpreted that acts of violence against children are not only related to the child's physical, but also psychological which results in the disruption of the child's social function.

Juridical violence against children is regulated in the Criminal Code, and Number 23 of 2004 concerning Satisfaction of Domestic Violence. In the Criminal Code, the definition of violence only includes violence related to the physical experience of children. Whereas child violence is not only physical violence but also psychological violence. This can be seen in the definition of violence in Law Number 23 of 2004 where the scope of violence is greater, namely physical, sexual, economic, and psychological violence. According to Subardhini (2016) form violence to child can shared Becomes three namely physical violence, emotional violence and sexual violence.

Violence stature is any act that causes physical injury/unnatural punishment that results in physical injury, illness, disability or death (Anggraeni & Sama'i, 2013; Subardhini, 2016). There are examples of physical violence, such as: hitting, strangling, drowning, tying, hanging, punching, pinning, and so on.

Emotional violence is any act that causes suffering due to verbal/unspeoken attacks that are reasonable and excessive. Emotional violence is also an act that damages behavior, intellectual, emotional, or physical function (Odhayani, Watson, & Watson, 2013; Probosiwi et al, 2015). There are examples of emotional abuse, such as: cursing, swearing, and so on.

Violence Sexual behavior is any act that is unpleasant, hurts and damages physical and behavioral functions, social and emotional (Subardhini, 2016). Some examples of sexual violence include harassment, adult sex objects, sodomy, rape or a rape test, *incest* (sexual intercourse with blood), acts that cause lust lust .

Overview of Violence Against Children During the COVID-19 Pandemic

According to data from System The Online Information for the Protection of Women and Children (SIMFONI PPA) notes case violence experienced Indonesian children for period January until September 2020 reached 5,697 cases with 6,315 victims (Ikhsan, 2020). This figure increases when compared to data from the Indonesian Child Protection Commission in 2019 as many as 4,369 cases and in 2018 as many as 4,885 cases of child violence (Mujiran, 2021).

One example of a case related to this is the violence committed by mothers when accompanying their children to study at home. It is like violence against children in the Tangerang area, where an 8-year-old child was killed by his mother because he was annoyed with his child who was difficult to teach online at home. Reporting from Kompas.com, this incident occurred on August 16, 2020, in a rented house in the Tangerang prohibition area. the mother admitted that she was upset because her child had difficulty studying online, so the dark-eyed mother abused her child to death. Then the child was buried by the husband and wife secretly. After being buried, they reported to local security that their son had been missing for several days. That is just one example of minor violence against children during the COVID-19 pandemic (Kasih, 2020).

From the case in Tangareng area, seen that The COVID-19 pandemic has forced the learning system in schools to be carried out through home online media. This activity is known as Distance Learning where parents accompany children in learning at home. This is new to parents so not all parents have sufficient knowledge to understand the scheme. As a result, when children are judged not to be sufficiently dominant in theory learning, parents are unable to control their emotions. From here the opportunities for violence against children arise.

The violence experienced by children while at home is not only in the form of physical violence but also non-physical violence, namely verbal and mental (Kendedes, 2020). Based on a survey conducted online on 8 – 14 June 2020 by the Indonesian Child Protection Commission involving 25,146 children spread across 34 provinces in Indonesia (Setiawan, 2020) it is known that children often experience physical violence from their parents such as being squeezed (Setiawan, 2020). In addition to physical violence, children often receive psychological violence, such as being scolded by children (56%), compared to other children (34%), being yelled at (23%), and being glared at (13%). According to KPAI, the condition of children who are bored, as well as activities that are considered less productive by children, such as watching television, sleeping, and playing games, have resulted in these acts of violence.

Whereas results study Muarifah, Wati, and Puspitasari (2020) shows that the most common form of violence by parents against children is pinching and glaring at children. The reason parents use violence is to discipline their children. This is in line with the data held by Wahana Visi Indonesia Rapid Evaluation Study of the Impact of COVID-19 and Its Effect on Indonesian Children. From the research, it is known that 62% of Indonesian children

experienced verbal violence from their parents during the pandemic. Included in verbal violence is increasing the volume of the voice in the form of screams, yells and tantrums, threatening children, criticizing, mocking, and responding to any mistakes in children (Anna, 2020).

Factors of Violence Against Children During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The policies implemented by the government related to the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic have a direct impact on the family economy. This has implications for psychological conditions that will trigger stress in the family. Stress is more often experienced by the husband, because he thinks about fulfillment need life everyday. As a release from stress, husbands usually commit more acts of violence against their wives and children. According to the American Psychological Association cited by Azmi and Goentoro (2020) explains: that increased stress among parents causes physical abuse and neglect of children.

Besides that another consequence of policies carried out government related handling the COVID-19 pandemic is Upgrade intensity children and parents for interact by direct every day. This can cause an imbalance in the relationship between children and parents, because there is still parental attention in parenting child (Manun, 2017). In addition, the psychological disorders of parents due to working from home without realized has build imbalance in parent-child relationship.

The government's policy regarding children's learning from the DPR requires parents to become teachers for children who study at home. Even though there are still many parents who do not understand the science of becoming a teacher (pedagogy). This has the potential to place parents in an emotionally vulnerable condition and helpless children often become victims of violence from his parents.

Impact of Violence

According to Santoso (2019), the impact of violence against women and children can be divided into two, namely the short-term impact and the long-term impact. The short period of impact usually affects the physical, while the long period of impact is related to the non-physical, namely the child's psyche. Those related to the physical are usually felt directly by the child as well as could seen by who only , while the non-physical can be felt directly only by the child concerned, because it is directly related to conscience or feelings somebody (Anggraeni & Sama'i, 2013).

Besides that according to Viqa (in Radhitya, Nurwati, & Irfan, 2016) the impact of violence against relatives as victims include: 1) physical impacts, namely physical changes in children such as bruises, lumps or late bones; 2) psychological impact where violence causes psychological disorders in children because children experience low self-confidence, fear and excessive anxiety. In some cases, the impact of the child's psychic feelings is the child's own tendency to retaliate and hurt themselves and those around them to vent the trauma they feel they have received from the violence they have received; 3) sexual impact, where the child is infected with a sexually transmitted disease such as HIV, or there is a child's reproductive disorder; 4) social impact, where children who are victims of violence find it difficult to interact socially properly, besides that children will have a tendency to commit deviant behavior as well as close self.

DISCUSSION

During the COVID-19 pandemic, children are often victims of violence physical and non physical from adults. Even though children are the next generation of the nation in the future because the child needs to get guarantees and legal protection from the state. This is one of the obligations of the state in fulfilling children's rights.

The law on guarantees and protection for children has been regulated in the convention on the rights of the child which was approved by the UN General Assembly on November 20,

1989. This was responded by Indonesia with sign convention Children's Rights on January 26, 1990. Not only that, the president also approved the Convention on the Rights of the Child as a positive legal rule and ratified it on September 5, 1990 through Presidential Decree No. 36/1990.

The most basic thing done by the Indonesian government in guaranteeing and providing legal protection for children in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child is to include the issue of child protection in the state constitution. The next mandate in the constitution that must be demanded continuously through Law Number 23 of 2004 concerning Child Protection with the main pillars, namely the fulfillment of children's rights and special protection of children. The Constitution has been amended twice through Law No. 35 of 2014 and Law No. 17 of 2016.

In addition, Indonesia has also ratified two protocols of the Optional Convention on the Rights of the Child through law, namely Law Number 10 of 2012 concerning Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child concerning the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography; and Law Number 1 Year 2000 concerning Ratification of ILO Convention Number 182 concerning the Prohibition and Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Profession.

The spirit in fulfilling the law on guarantees and protection for children also underlies various other laws and regulations, such as Law Number 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Government which mandates each region to make efforts to fulfill children's rights and protect children. The fulfillment of the law on guarantees and protection for children also underlies the amendment of Law Number 1 of 1974 concerning Marriage to Law Number 16 of 2019. The amendment to the Basic Law on Marriage is an effort to prevent sexual violence against children through marriage child.

Countermeasures violence to Children during the COVID-19 pandemic must be carried out in the community through various prevention efforts. According to Adawiah (2015) prevention is an action to prevent or restrain the occurrence of something related to social problems that occur. Efforts to deal with violence experienced by children should receive serious attention and handling from various parties. Therefore, the approach in handling the problem of violence against children's character is stuck, where in addition to the legal approach, non-legal approaches must also be considered.

Prevention of violence against children during the COVID-19 pandemic can be started from the closest sphere, namely the family and continued by the community and the government. Within the scope of the family, what can be done are: First, the family begins to regulate repeated communication between members so that there is no unbalanced relationship that results in adverse asymmetric relationships. Second, parents need to increase their knowledge of parenting during a pandemic through various information available on the internet so as to minimize the possibility of violence in childcare.

In the community, data is carried out by strengthening the role of community institutions that focus on child protection to disseminate information to parents about children's rights and ways of child care. Community institutions can do this through the mass media to hear information dissemination methods that can provide education.

In fact, from the scope of the government, it can be done by optimizing various existing programs, both national and regional standards with the aim of strengthening family resilience. The wrong national program is the Generasi program Planned which was initiated by the National Population and Family Planning Agency. In addition, the government can also prevent and handle cases of violence against children by optimizing the role and function of the Community Service Unit Social owned by the Indonesian Ministry of Social Affairs in handling cases of violence against children.

CONCLUSION

Children are a group that is vulnerable to the spread of COVID-19, however, staying indoors is not completely safe from acts of violence that often occur from within the family. The violence experienced by children from the royal family seems to have received legality or announcements from the surrounding community. This is caused by the view that violence by parents is natural with the aim of disciplining children who are lazy, naughty or so on.

At the time of the vicious COVID-19 pandemic with the aim of disciplining children it became too much because of the absence of parents adapting to the pandemic conditions, thus triggering stress in the family and vent while educating children at home with shameful violence out of bounds.

Children who are victims of violence need to be handled specifically because children get protection from the state through various existing policies. According to the author, the best policies set by the government in guaranteeing and providing legal protection for children still have weaknesses in this COVID-19 pandemic situation because in reality the lives of the perpetrators who are the families of the victims have not received the law that is in accordance with their actions. Therefore, so that child protection can be carried out optimally, it is necessary to have a good synergy from the government, community and family.

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