

Factors That Cause Violence in Children in Makassar City, South Sulawesi Province, Indonesia

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Abstract

The present study aimed to determine several factors that cause violence against children in Makassar City, South Sulawesi Province, Indonesia. This research was conducted from October 2020 to December 2020 in Makassar City. The population was composed of all children who experienced violence in Makassar City. The sample comprised 20 children who experienced physical violence and were recorded in P2TP2AI at the time the research was conducted. The results showed several factors causing violence against children in Makassar City, namely, family factors, environmental factors, and the child's own factor.

Keywords: violence against children, causal factors, family, environment

1.Introduction

Family is a component consisting of mother, father, and children. Mothers and fathers/parents play important roles in the personal formation and education of children. In a family, children are closer to their mothers than to their fathers; therefore, a mother should be good at educating her children. The good and bad parenting of a mother for her child will have a big influence on the development and character of the child in the future. A harmonious family is a family that runs in harmony, discipline, help, and mutual respect. A harmonious life will have an impact on the happiness of all family members, including children.

The rise of acts of violence against children illustrates that Indonesia is a country that is prone to even emergency violence against children. The number of acts of violence against children is increasing every year. Data from the National Commission for Child Protection show that violence against children does not recognize social strata. In the lower middle class, violence against children is due to poverty. In the upper middle class, it is because of the ambition of parents to make their children the best, at school and in society. The wrong paradigm that thinks children have no rights and must always be according to their parents has to end (Agustin et al., 2018).

Violence according to the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 35 of 2014 concerning Amendments to Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection, Article 1, Paragraph 15a is any act against a child that results in physical, psychological, sexual misery or suffering, and/or neglect, including threats to commit acts, coercion, or unlawful deprivation of liberty. In addition Huraerah (2007) defined child abuse as the act of physically and emotionally injuring a dependent child, through urges of desire, uncontrollable corporal punishment, permanent degradation and ridicule, or sexual violence, usually performed by parents or other parties who are supposed to care for the child.

The perpetrators of child violence are mostly performed by individuals who are supposed to be the protectors of the children themselves, for example, parents, close relatives, neighbors, or teachers. This occurs because many parents consider violence against children as part of disciplining children (Fahri et al, 2020) and Gelles (2005).

In addition, the data of violence against children reported in Makassar City was quite high in 2017 until 2020. For example, in 2020, during the last 4 months, children reported their parents to the police and the Makassar City Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Service, which continued to increase. The most common types of violence are physical violence, sexual violence, and other types. The results of the study by Fahri et al. (2020) stated the types of violence against children in Makassar City consist of physical violence, neglect, psychological violence, sexual violence, trafficking, exploitation of children, and children facing the law. With these types of violence, it can be divided into physical violence, emotional violence, and sexual violence, this is in accordance with Moore's opinion (in Nataliani, 2004), and violence or mistreatment of children can generally be classified into three categories, including physical, sexual, and emotional violence. With the types of violence that exist in Makassar City, South Sulawesi Province, it is necessary to determine the factors that cause violence against children.

2. Research Methods

This research was conducted using quantitative and qualitative approaches. Qualitative approach uses the content analysis method, and quantitative approach uses a descriptive analysis. The population is composed of all children who received acts of violence in Makassar City. The sample was selected intentionally (by purposive), namely, children who received violence at the time the research was conducted at P2TP2AI amounting to 20 persons. The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics.

3. Result and Discussion

Violence or mistreatment of children can generally be classified into three categories, including physical, sexual, and emotional abuse. Domestic violence, whether perpetrated by a husband against his wife or a parent against his child, can be physical and non-physical. Meanwhile, according to Krug et al. (2002), (Evans et al., 2008; Nemeroff, 2016; Porto Zambon et al., 2012; McGuigan & Pratt, 2001), domestic violence is defined as follows:

1. Physical violence is an act that results in physical harm from interactions with parents or responsible persons and persons with power. The form includes hitting, pushing, grabbing, or injuring in the form of physical actions.
2. Sexual violence is the involvement of children in sexual activities that the child does not fully understand, does not agree with, or is developmentally unprepared for and

- cannot give consent. It can even be considered as an act of violating the law or considered taboo by the community. Child sexual abuse is committed between a child and an adult or who has a relationship of responsibility, trust, or power. Activities intended to satisfy the needs of others include holding, touching the genitals, showing genitals, forcing or threatening to commit immorality, or rape.
3. Psychological or emotional violence is failure to provide growth and development in accordance with development, lack of a supportive environment and attachment figure (primary attachment), so that emotional and social competence cannot develop stably in accordance with self-potential and the demands of the community where the child lives. Such actions are very likely to cause poor health or physical conditions, mental, spiritual, moral, or social development. This is done by parents or individuals who are responsible and have power. Forms of emotional violence can be in the form of non-verbal or non-physical such as hostility or refusal of care, damage to property or pets, cut off communication, belittle, demean, scapegoat, threaten, frighten, discriminate, insult, or blame words. For child treatment, it can be in the form of mocking, excessive criticism, giving unpleasant labeling, insulting, or threatening.
 4. Neglect is the failure of parents or those who are responsible for providing for the needs related to the child's development in the areas of health, education, emotional development, nutrition, or shelter and safe living conditions, in the context of a family or caregiver. As a result, the child will experience disturbances in health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral, or social development. Neglect also includes failure to supervise and protect children from harm.

There are several acts of violence that can also be experienced by not only adults but also children. These acts of violence include abuse (including violent punishment) involving physical, sexual, and psychological/emotional violence; neglect of infants, children, and adolescents by parents, caregivers, and other authority figures, most often in the home but also in settings such as schools and orphanages; bullying (including cyber-bullying) is an unwanted aggressive behavior by another child or group of children who are not siblings or in a romantic relationship with the victim. Bullying involves repeated physical, psychological, or social harm and often occurs in schools and other places where children congregate and online. Youth violence is concentrated among children and young adults aged 10–29 years, occurs most often in community settings between acquaintances and strangers, includes intimidation and physical assault with or without weapons (such as guns and knives), and may involve gang violence.

Violence is a form of one person's action against another party that results in pain and changes both physically and psychologically so that violence is an attack or abuse of physical force against a person or animal; attack or destruction, very violent, violent, cruel, and vicious destruction of property or something that has the potential to become someone's property. Violence indicates pressure that is beyond the ability of the object affected by violence and can result in physical or psychological damage. Based on the various forms of violence, the causes of the crime also vary. Analysis of the causes of violence (the causes of violent crimes) can be seen in various perspectives, namely, anthropological, sociological, psychological (individual and mass), and juridical approaches.

Violence can occur in the environment inside and outside the family. Violence that occurs in the family environment often occurs due to family disharmony, such as high stress levels, lack of communication, lack of knowledge about good parenting, or not listening to children's wishes so that children position themselves to obey their parents so that parents act in the name of home to educate their children. Violence that occurs outside occurs because of

the limitations of the child; lack of control by parents, schools, neighbors, and local officials; loss of values and norms that exist in the community; lack of access to places for complaints of acts of violence around the place of residence; and lack of understanding of how to educate children. Children who are victims of violence will experience trauma both physically and psychologically. Children who have experienced violence in the past will have the potential to commit acts of violence when they are adults. Therefore, children who are victims of violence need to get special attention and special handling involving parents, families, government, and community participation. Cases of violence against children in Makassar City are caused by several factors as can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1. *Factors Causing Violence against Children in Makassar City, South Sulawesi Province*

No	Factor causing violence	Amount	Percentage (%)
1	Economy	6	33.3
2	Family condition	5	26.8
3	Technology development	3	13.3
4	Social Environment	4	20
5	Individual child	2	6.6
		20	100

Source: *Primary data (2021)*

Table 1 shows the factors that cause violence against children in Makassar City, namely, economy, family conditions, technological developments, social environment, and the child's own factors. Several factors that cause violence against children can be divided into internal and external factors. The internal factor of violence against children comes from the family. This family factor is related not only to victims of violence but also to perpetrators of violence. Domestic violence is defined as violence perpetrated by individuals who live or share the same residence as the victim. Children who live in families experiencing domestic violence have a high risk of physical violence or other forms of abuse. The prevalence of children who see or hear violence between parents is approximately 3.3–10 million in the United States. Meanwhile, cases of violence committed by the closest family, especially parents to children, reach 30%–60% of the entire child population in the United States (Postmus & Ortega, 2005).

The high percentage of factors causing child violence on economic factors (33.3%) is also in accordance with the results of the interview on February 16, 2021 at 9:00–9:30 AM by Aiptu Mahmud (P2TP2A officer) who stated that “Children who have experienced violence so far that I have handled are usually caused by the child's economic problems that are not fulfilled by their parents so that they do things that make parents violent and also because of the child's own environment.” These results indicate that poverty is always closely related to the economic situation of the community and this relatively greatly influences the development of crime. The causes of crime in the form of persecution and violence in the family with a background of economic factors are influenced by the following factors:

- (a) relatively low education level of actors
- (b) unfavorable environment.

Parents and surrogate parents who commit acts of violence against children tend to be socially isolated. Very few violent parents participate in a community organization, and most have little contact with friends or relatives; this lack of social involvement eliminates the support system of the violent parent, which will help them cope better with family or social stress.

The results of the survey on violence against children (SKTA) in 2020 show that perpetrators of violence in the family are performed by parents, both father and mother, and relatives. This family factor is related to the family economy and family conditions. Families with less economic means will encourage parents, be it father, mother, or both, to find work by leaving the family. The children are left either with their father/mother or with other family members. Lack of attention to children causes children to become victims of violence or become perpetrators of violence against other children. Children who are victims of violence are basically performed by individuals closest to the child or family. The case of violence that occurred shows that the violence was personal. This means that violence against children can occur in families and is performed by close individuals. In addition to economic factors, family harmony is also a cause of violence against children. In a family that is not in harmony, violence against children often occurs, by both parents and siblings. Fathers and mothers who are not harmonious tend to be indifferent to their children. Parents are busy with the problems they face. Thus, parents become negligent with the development and association of their children. Children who need attention and protection then seek attention outside the home. In such conditions, children become vulnerable to become victims of violence or become perpetrators of violence against other children. Children who are perpetrators of violence basically vent their disappointment and use violence as a means to seek attention, both from their parents and from the surrounding community. This structure that does not support a harmonious life causes acts of violence against children. A family that is not harmonious shows that the family structure is disrupted which in turn encourages cases of violence against children. Certain types of families have an increased risk of committing acts of violence and neglect toward children. For example, single parents are more likely to commit acts of violence against children than intact parents. In addition, families where both husband and wife dominate in making important decisions, such as where to live, what job to take, when to have children, and several other decisions, have a higher level of violence against children than other families. Which husband and wife are equally responsible for the decisions? All good or bad parental behavior will be imitated by children. Parents need to apply good attitudes and behaviors for the formation of a good child's personality. A good parenting pattern for the formation of a good child's personality is a parenting pattern that prioritizes the interests of the child, but parents also control the child. Because children also live in society and get along with the environment and, of course, children get influences from outside that may damage the child's personality, they will be controlled by parents by applying good attitudes in the family as well as examples or examples from parents. Parents who can be considered friends by their children will make a warm life in the family. Thus, parents and children have openness and support each other. According to Shochib (2014), parents are authoritarian, and those who provide complete freedom are the driving force for children to behave aggressively. Parents who are democratic do not contribute to the behavior of children who are aggressive and become a driving force for the development of children in a positive direction. Rude and harsh parental attitudes, deviant parental behavior, cold relationship between children and parents and between father and mother, divorced parents, and weak economy are the main drivers of children to behave aggressively. Negative effects arise when parents use inconsistent corporal punishment against children, resulting in juvenile delinquency that is getting worse.

The results obtained are also in accordance with what was stated by Gelles (2005) suggesting that violence against children (Child Abuse) occurs due to a combination of various factors, namely, inter-generational transmission of violence, social stress, social isolation, and lower community involvement. Family structure.

While external factors are more directed to the influence of the social environment and technological developments, another external factor that can cause violence is technology. Social media and various violent games encourage children to practice it with their friends. Great curiosity in children will encourage children to try to imitate what they see. In addition, it is easy for children to access social media at any time, so that children can open violent scenes. Thus, children become accustomed to acts of violence, so cases of violence against children often occur because of the habits committed by perpetrators of violence or the factor that children and families interact with each other. Children can influence parents, but parents' condition can also affect children. Judging from external factors, it is also seen that violence against children that occurred in Makassar City is both personal and structural. Personal violence is violence that occurs directly. The case of bullying that occurs shows that the violence that occurs is personal. Meanwhile, structural violence occurs because of the reduced social control performed by the community.

There are five internal and external factors that are the causes of acts of violence against children, namely, lack of harmony in family relations in the household, community/environment where individuals hang out and ignore the aspect of faith, economic difficulties due to the economic crisis, sanctions/punishments that are still considered light, as well as entertainment facilities and infrastructure that strongly highlight elements of violence or other negative topics. Meanwhile, the causes or risks of violence and neglect of children are divided into three factors, namely, parent/family factors, social/community environmental factors, and children's own factors.

4. Conclusions and Suggestion

Factors that cause child abuse include family factors, such as poverty and a less harmonious family situation; environmental factors, such as association and technological developments; and the child's own factor.

Suggestions that can be given are to related institutions, namely, P2TP2A (Integrated Service Centers for the Empowerment of Women and Children) needs to increase efforts to protect or defend victims of violence legally through legislation and through the formation or organization of non-governmental organizations that can help children as victims of domestic violence. Moreover, P2TP2A should have attention to the victims of crime, while still respecting the legal rights of perpetrators of criminal acts. Because poverty is one of the factors that contributes to the occurrence of violence against children, in this regard, poverty reduction efforts should be understood within the framework of eliminating acts of violence against children. Poverty programs not only increase household income but also increase social harmonization within the family. In this regard, the poverty alleviation scheme requires a social guidance activity that is linked to issues of child violence.

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