

# Behind the Pandemic: Analysis of the Role of Child Protection Institutions

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## ABSTRACT

The story of the outbreak is so gripping that the whole world's population wades through a pandemic storm in uncertainty. Nevertheless, the "behind the scenes" story of the pandemic is no less heartbreaking. The government's policy to break the chain of viruses with large-scale social restrictions is, in fact, a new disaster for vulnerable groups, namely children. Various kinds of literature examine the "behind the scenes" of the pandemic that since March 2020, where the outbreak has been declared a national pandemic and continued with large-scale social restrictions, recorded cases of violence in vulnerable groups are reported. Based on data from the Complaint Service section of the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection, cases of violence, especially those that afflict children, the number continues to creep up. Therefore, the study of increasing acts of violence against vulnerable people, especially children, is necessary. This research is designed in the form of library research using various sources of literature as a source of research and reference data because cases of increased violence against children also occur in some countries. Some research on this subject will be reviewed in the literature review section of this study.

**Keywords:** Children, Violence, Protection, Pandemic.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic has exerted great stress and impact in the health sector and non-health [1]. Indonesia must continue to improve efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic across sectors. Including the effects or consequences caused such as economic conditions that are down, because the policy of restriction of activities is a severe blow to the business world until the economic conditions of severe contraction resulting in the closure of business units and mass layoffs are bitter facts that must be swallowed [2], [3].

Like the snowball effect, the problem of the outbreak does not stop at health problems only; the increasing economic burden resulting in the problem of violence in children also rose. Based on the data, there were 2,726 child abuse cases from March 2020 to July 2021, and more than half were cases of sexual crimes. It found that of the 2,726 cases, 52 percent were dominated by sexual crimes [4].

This phenomenon certainly evokes a sense of justice in which the child's position is essentially the mandate and gift of Almighty God, and within him is an inherent dignity as a human being that parents, society, and government must protect. Also, the Republic of Indonesia Constitution guarantees the protection of children. Article 34 paragraph (1) of the 1945 Constitution

stipulates that "Poor and displaced children are cared for by the state".

Then the special protection of children's rights is also stipulated in Article 28 B paragraph (2), which states that "Every child has the right to live, grow and develop and has the right to protection from violence and violence. Discrimination." Law No. 35 of 2014 on Amendments to the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 23 of 2002 on Child Protection also regulates the protection of children from acts of violence, namely in Article 13 Paragraph. (1) "Any child while in the care of a parent, guardian, or another party, any other person in charge of care, has the right to receive protection from discrimination, economic and sexual exploitation, neglect, cruelty, violence and abuse, injustice and other persecution [4].

The number of violent cases against children that occur in almost every area should concern the Central Government and Local Government because it is feared that if there is no effort to overcome the case, then it is. It will continue to increase and spread to other fields [5]. Based on this, this paper will discuss causes and protections.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The effects of the pandemic were felt by all layers, all sectors, and all regions. Moreover, some studies put vulnerable groups, namely children, as parties with considerable potential. The policy of all regions with social restrictions to reduce victims of exposure to the COVID-19 virus must be paid quite expensively. That is with increasing reports of child abuse. Not only in our

country with data obtained through the Complaints Service website of the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection, but there has also been an increase in child abuse cases. In countries that have advanced with more responsive hotline services, there is an increase in violence data during pandemics. Considering articles that comment on child abuse, especially during the pandemic season, we collect as follows:

**Table 2.** List of Research into Violence in Children During Pandemics

No.	Author's	Research Title	Findings
1.	Carolina Øverlien (2020)	<i>The COVID-19 Pandemic and Its Impact on Children in Domestic Violence Refuges</i>	In this study, the data was obtained by sharing a survey in Oslo, Norway. 53% of respondents responded that the effects of social restrictions there influenced the economy, and 43% answered that with students or children studying at home, emotional levels increased.
2.	Sidnei R. Priolo Filho, Deborah Goldfarb, Murilo R. Zibetti, Carlos Aznar-Blefari (2020)	<i>Brazilian Child Protection Professionals' Resilient Behavior during the COVID-19 Pandemic</i>	Pandemic conditions are at a peak level when this research is conducted in Brazil. Furthermore, the impact instantly occurred in other fields. The weakened economy is a gateway to rising emotions in the family, so violence in vulnerable groups such as children directly impacts. So, this study is intended for professionals who deal with the problem. How do professionals deal with these tough conditions?
3.	Jugal Kishore, Monica Lakhanpal Gaggar, Jitender (2020)	<i>Child Sexual Abuse during COVID-19 Pandemic</i>	The study, which is from data from NCMEC (the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children), a non-profit organization that concentrates on children, including acts of violence they experienced, noted that in March 2020, there was a spike in reports of child abuse, compared to the same month in the previous year. A pandemic effect that can traumatize a child in the long run.
4.	Babvey P, Capela F, Cappa C, Lipizzi C, Petrowski N, Ramirez-Marquez J (2021)	<i>Using social media data for assessing children's exposure to violence during the COVID-19 pandemic</i>	Several government policies as preventive measures against the pandemic have caused new disasters for children without considering the impact. The economic pressure experienced by parents is a trigger for violence against children. Research conducted on social media, in this case, Twitter, is one of the results of this study, namely a significant increase in abusive content during the pandemic.
5.	Bérubé A, Clément M-E, Lafantasia V, LeBlanc A, Maron M, Picher G, Turgeon J, Ruiz-Casares M, Lacharité C (2021)	<i>How societal responses to COVID-19 could contribute to child neglect</i>	This study photographed cases in Canada during normal or pre-pandemic conditions. The government is very concerned about the needs of children. It is starting from the education system health care to fulfill other needs. However, when the pandemic storm came, the government's attention focused on the pandemic, and the needs of children were neglected. A study that focuses on social security for children is not strong enough with evidence that the policy does not work when a pandemic occurs.
6.	Bullinger LR, Carr JB, Packham A (2021)	<i>COVID-19 and crime: Effects of stay-at-home orders on domestic violence</i>	Stay at Home (SAH) policy as a step to stem the spread of COVID-19 has not escaped other impacts. Research-based on the number of emergency reports received by the Police of one of the states in the USA as a study material. During SAH, policy reports of emergency calls decreased, but reports of domestic violence with child victims increased.

No.	Author's	Research Title	Findings
7.	Chung G, Lanier P, Wong PYJ (2021)	<i>Mediating effects of parental stress on harsh parenting and parent-child relationship during coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in Singapore</i>	This article published by the <i>Journal of Family Violence</i> is quite interesting, an early study on the impact of COVID-19 on parenting. The economic impact that is exhaled will certainly affect psychiatric conditions. The purpose of this study is certainly to reduce the strain on parents' psyche so as not to impact harsh parenting.

Of the seven articles used as a review, the similarities are that children receive the consequences of government policies in stopping the transmission of the epidemic. Indeed, the greatest risk is always in developing countries [8][10]. Although child abuse cases during the pandemic also occur in developed countries, the object of research from Carolina (2020) tells that the consequences of closing schools and child care centers are the greatest potential for children, especially those living in shelters. Universal emergency for some children, where the impact on children affected by trauma will last a lifetime [9] [12]. However, these effects are most damaging for children in the poorest countries, in the poorest neighborhoods, and for those already in disadvantaged or vulnerable situations [11][13].

**3. METHODS**

This study uses a qualitative approach because problems relate to humans who are fundamentally dependent on observations, in this case, children. According to Moleong, what is meant by qualitative research is an understanding of the phenomena that occur or are experienced by research subjects, which includes action, motivation, behavior, and perception as a whole and through an explanation or description in the form of words that is natural and by utilizing various natural methods [6].

**4. DISCUSSION**

**4.1. Factors causing violence against children during the Covid-19 Pandemic**

The increase in incidence and reporting of child violence during the COVID-19 pandemic is influenced by many factors. "Lockdown" and "stay at home" policies make the amount of time spent by children and parents a consequence of the government's policies. Here are some causes of violence and even child abuse during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**4.1.1. Economic Factors**

The Indonesian economy and the employment sector are severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic that has plagued the past two years. A total of 2.14 million formal and informal workers are feeling the impact of COVID-

19, as recorded at the Ministry of Manpower until July 31, 2021. As a result of the pandemic that occurred if detailed, there are a lot of workers in the formal sector who were dismissed from their jobs, reaching 383,645, and there were also many 1.13 million formal workers who were also laid off from their places of work. In the countryside, the impact of the pandemic from COVID-19 has the most effect on the sources of income of those engaged in agriculture and livestock, while in urban areas, this is most affected by most workers with daily salaries and employees with regular salaries who work in factories and shops. Even small commotion between parents and children often occurs due to the intensity of children's time studying at home by government policy to conduct online schools where parents are also required to teach school subject matter to children while parents also have another task. Online learning activities instead of face-to-face learning in school during the COVID-19 outbreak also raises new problems in households where the implementation of home learning systems also requires operational costs that are not small because, during online learning, students are required to have an active quota for the internet while on the other hand parents are in an unstable economic state due to pandemics such as job loss or part-time work resulting in a lack of income.

The increasingly heavy economic burden makes parents feel depressed and stressed. A termination of employment makes parents feel the impact of COVID-19; this triggers violence against children as current cases of violence against children are increasing [3].

**4.1.2. Psychological Factors**

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus in early 2020 until now, nationally, the COVID-19 virus has spread throughout the country with different levels of impact in each province. The spread of the COVID-19 virus in the country has caused casualties, property losses, expanded coverage of affected areas, and broad socio-economic losses. These things can be considered for determining a national disaster so that the family's economic burden is getting heavier. This can cause a psychological burden for parents, and often this burden is inherent in the form of violence against children because emotions more easily trigger parents. National Children's Forum (FAN) conducted a Survey of What Is With COVID-19 (AADC-19) to discover children's perceptions and knowledge about COVID-19 while undergoing the learning process at home and children's

feelings and expectations in the current. It is obtained if children experience the psychological impact of online or online learning policies. Learning at home causes feelings of boredom in children where if they are in school children can do activities outside such as sports, extracurricular activities outside the classroom or buy at store food where they can joke with their friends. On the other hand, this survey also found that one in ten children who know their parents' problems in terms of family income feel worried about food shortages due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all parents and children. If parents are psychologically affected by declining income or even loss of income altogether, then the psychological impact on children who must do online learning is also not much different. The boredom that children feel causes children become less concentrated on schoolwork given by teachers. This can trigger child violence in the family environment. Both parents and children are equally experiencing psychological distress.

## 5. CONCLUSION

From the discussion above, the conclusion can be obtained that several different factors cause violence in children during the pandemic season. The first economic factor, this burden-pen, also triggers violence in children. Children who are victims of violence need to be handled specifically because victims of violence will experience physical and mental trauma. Tackling violence against children requires cooperation from parents, families, communities, and governments. Therefore, efforts to deal with community-based child violence need to be done to break the chain of violence. In addition, prevention efforts become an important part of efforts to break the chain of violence. These efforts can be done through the earliest and closest social environment, namely family, relatives, and so on, extend to the community and the government's control of social media and mass media. It needs a common awareness that acts of violence are already a very extraordinary crime that can interfere with the growth and development of children in the future and will impact the disruption of the process of education and childcare in existing social institutions.

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