

# The Community Knowledge of Violence Against Children

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**Abstract**—This study shows that people's knowledge on violence against children is limited to knowing and understanding toward the victims of violence against children. The knowledge of the community has not yet applied as a reference to assess and analyze the environmental behavior towards children as behaviors that can trigger violence against children. Knowing that the knowledge and understanding on the violence against children is still low, even some do not know and do not care; therefore it is very logical that their affection for violence against children is still low, even the community has not participated to withstand the increase in cases of violence against children, even though the attitudes and behavior of the community are expected to reduce the level of violence in children.

**Keywords**—*knowledge; society; violence; children*

## I. INTRODUCTION

The cases of child abuse continue to show an increase. The data from the West Java Integrated Women's and Child Empowerment Service Center (P2TP2A) states that in 2017 there were 160 cases of child abuse reported to the West Java P2TP2A office. Garut is one of the regencies in West Java with cases of violence against children that are classified as high and tend to increase. In 2016 there were 112 cases of violence reported to P2KBP3A and P2TP2A. Throughout 2017 there were 141 cases of violence against women and children [1].

The cases of child abuse in Garut Regency from January to July 2018 were recorded of 35 cases reported to the P2KBP3A Office of Garut Regency. The Head of P2KBP3A Garut Regency, Toni T Somantri, said that there were many cases of violence against children and women that were not reported. "Many people are ashamed and reluctant to report when dealing with the case. Therefore we have difficulty detecting".

The Indonesian Government has sought from various perspectives to deal with the problem of violence against children. In Garut Regency there is Regional Regulation (Perda) number 13 of 2018 concerning the protection of women and children against violence. The realization of the Field of Child Protection (P2KBP3A) Department of Garut Regency formed a child and women's protection task force that was up to the village level. The task force team is the spearhead for tackling cases of child abuse. The Garut government hopes that people who experience the incident or see acts of violence

can immediately report to the task force team in their village [2].

Considering this, the researcher wants to know actually how people's knowledge of violence against children. This is important to be revealed to see the level of community understanding of potential behavior into child abuse [3].

The academic community also contributes a lot of research results and carries out community service regarding child abuse. Research and community service regarding violence against children focuses mostly on the causes of violence [4], forms of violence, perpetrators of violence, victims of violence [5], and the consequences of violence on children [6]. There is almost no research on community cognition maps for violence in children. Community knowledge of violence against children is one of the instructions to instill affection and konasi protection in children [7].

Therefore this study aims to find out how is people's knowledge of child abuse. Public knowledge about the seed of child abuse is a preventive condition to reduce cases of violence in children.

## II. RESEARCH METHOD

This research is qualitative, in an effort to examine the meaning construction of public knowledge about violence against children. The research process was conducted through interviews with community representatives from three districts in Garut: Banyuresmi, Cigedug and Bayongbong sub-districts. The number of samples taken from the three sub-districts was 63 people. FGD data with community leaders was done as cross check data. The FGD was conducted with the apparatus of the government, elements of the police, elements of Islam. The data of observation was done by observing the communication patterns of children and adults in messages of violence against children. The document data was carried out by collecting and analyzing documents regarding violence against children, inductively from those that are specific to the public.

The research subjects were Banyuresmi, Karyasari, Sukalaksana, Bina Karya, Cintanagara and Pamalayan villages. The questionnaires were used to measure the knowledge, attitudes, environment of experience and behavior of the community towards child abuse. Questions in the questionnaire

to measure knowledge consist of (look for a question attachment).

**III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

The community knowledge of child abuse is categorized into 2 attitudes, positive and negative attitude. The positive attitude is classified into three types, namely knowing, understanding and analyzing. Knowing shows that people know about violence against children, and types of violence. Understanding shows cognition to understand correctly about violence in children such as behavior that can trigger violence in children, conditions of relationships that can lead to violence in children, attitudes that can arouse violence in children. Understanding also includes comprehending where to report when seeing and experiencing violence in children. Analyzing shows the condition of understanding the real situation, composing, connecting, and giving meaning to the knowledge.

The cognition map of the Garut community against violence in children is the most positive (89%) and negative (11%). From the positive, knowing (33%), understanding (45%) and those who have been able to analyze (11%).

People who know as the lowest level in cognition are the most. They know, hear, witness cases of violence against children in their neighborhood. 33% of people know about violence against children, and types of violence; types of verbal, physical and sexual violence. According to them, verbal and physical violence is commonly seen in their environment. The child is scolded, beaten within reasonable limits. People who think so have quite good religious awareness. And live in an environment with many pesantren. Expressed when asking for the willingness to be photographed a mother immediately looked for her veil for use in the research documentation.

Public knowledge about sexual violence is still minimal, although cases of sodomy occur in the area, as stated by Mrs. Yani as the head of the RT in the village of Banyuresmi, District of Banyuresmi, Garut explaining that violence on children can be in the form of continuous hitting or scolding. Further she explained that the hitting and scolding are not too hard realizing that they live close to the Islamic boarding.

Mrs. Yani's opinion is in line with the opinion of Mr. Iyus, a member of the community of Sulaksana Village, Banyuresmi District, Garut Regency, according to him "if I know that there is violence, if a child is yelled at by his parents, it is normal if there is a child who yells at it".

According to the knowledge of members of the Banyuresmi community, scolding and hitting children in the corridor of educating is something that Banyuresmi people usually do to children. Besides that their low education causes no understanding of violence against children [8]. Whereas community cognition for sexual violence is still very poor. The community does not recognize interaction patterns that can lead to sexual violence. As experienced by Mrs. Aisyah as the mother of victims of sexual harassment committed by her own husband against their biological daughter. This case occurred in Bina Karya Village, Banyuresmi District, Garut Regency, according to his presentation, her husband, the RT head, was gentle, not rude, but it turned out that he had repeatedly sexually abused his daughter, until finally her own daughter reported her father's actions to the police. This shows that Aisyah's mother did not have knowledge of patterns of interaction that could indicate sexual violence in her own home. Moreover, knowledge about behavior that can invite violence on children is not owned by him. Even though if he knew, he could anticipate that the behavior was controlled so that there would be no sexual violence against his child.

This case shows that sexual violence cases are usually closed because the victim as a weak party is threatened and lured by the perpetrator who has social power in his environment, as a parent or as an older brother. On the other hand, the community does not recognize behavior which is a guide to sexual violence against children.

Cases of sexual violence that tend to be closed are also caused by a lack of public knowledge about sexual violence against children. The most important actors in providing knowledge about sexual violence are parents and teachers. It is important that both parents and schools are aware of their responsibilities to avoid such incidents [5].

Map of the cognition of the people of Garut against violence in children as seen in table 1 below:

**TABLE I. THE COGNITION OF GARUT PEOPLE AGAINST THE VIOLANCE**

AREA		POSITIVE							
		Knowing		Understanding		Analyzing		Negative	
District	Sub District	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Banyuresmi	Banyuresmi	4	33 %	2	17%	4	33%	2	17 %
	Karyasari	10	50 %	3	15%	5	25%	2	10 %
	Sukalaksana	2	22 %	4	45%	1	11%	2	22 %
	Binakarya	1	25%	3	75%	0	0%	0	0%
Cigedug	Cintanagara	3	21 %	6	43%	4	29%	1	7 %
Bayongbong	Pamalayan	1	25 %	0	0%	3	75%	0	0 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>Cognition in Garut</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>33 %</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11 %</b>

While people who have understood violence against children were 29%. They understand correctly about child abuse such as behavior that can trigger violence in children, conditions of relationships that can lead to violence in children, attitudes that can arouse violence in children. Mr. Asep, a member of the Karyasari Village community, Banyuresmi

Subdistrict, said "not only torture, but if you think you are pressuring your child, for example, but while being scolded, the word Mr mah also includes violence.

People who have been able to analyze child abuse in Garut are 27%. They understand the real situation, compile, connect, and give meaning to that knowledge. For example, Mr. Gaya

Maulana as Karyasari Village Chief, Banyuresmi Sub district, according to him, "You also know that there is a law on child abuse, if there is an incident, the legal route can be reported immediately". Likewise, Mrs. Neni Nurhayati as Secretary of the Cintanagara Village Chief, Cigedug District, Garut Regency, according to her, cases of child abuse that occurred in her new village were revealed after many victims showed that uncovered sexual violence tended to increase. Child sexual abuse exploits and degrades children and can cause serious damage to cognitive, social, and emotional development of a child through a coordinated program [9]. As a society, we have a collective responsibility to prevent child sexual abuse. To accomplish this, we must initiate and support services, policies and programs that enhance children's development, health and safety [5].

But there are still members of the community whose attitude is still negative towards violence against children. 11% of them did not know at all what violence meant to children and everything related to it. Ratnasari as a housewife and trader of Banyuresmi Village, Banyuresmi District, Garut Regency, according to her, "how do I know, I don't know what I want to answer, and I also like to upset children, especially when my children are still small in stubborn, then I like to shout shouting if a child is stubborn, likes to beat too, how about my husband working in Bandung rarely go home and I also trade. So, if tea naughty kids like to be told that Mah's love likes to be beaten, I like to be dizzy" [10]. People assume that child abuse is tolerated as long as it is for education. This view becomes a culture in their environment [11].

The ignorance of violence against children is even seen in the figure of Mr. Yana Suryana as the Head of Cintanagara Village, Cigedug District, Garut Regency, according to him "I don't know the problem. I have only been in office for just one year, try to ask other residents" [10].

Cognition of Garut people who are negative towards child abuse is caused by emotional and ego centric psychological conditions that make them insensitive to their surroundings.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

The map of Garut people's cognition towards violence against children is still at the level of knowing if the case has occurred. There are still few who have been able to understand and analyze violence in children. Their cognitions about violence towards the children can be in the form of physical and verbal violence which they think this violence are still in the educational corridor, yet they have no knowledge about sexual violence. The people having this knowledge are those who are open enough to various sources of information, have relationship with educated group and have a high sosial status and experienced both as the village officials and leaders; so that they have ability to analyze the violence towards children. However there are some communities who are negative above the violence against children due to the unstable emotions and lack care about the environment.

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