

# ANALYSIS OF VIOLENCE IN CHILDREN DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Onny Fitriana Sitorus 1, Dony Darma Sagita2,\*, Novelia Utami3

<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Muhammadiyah University Prof. DR. HAMKA Jakarta, 12130, Jakarta, Indonesia

\*Corresponding Author: Donyds@uhamka.ac.id

Copyright©2018 by authors, all rights reserved. Authors agree that this article remains permanently open access under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License 4.0 International License

**Abstract** This research is a quantitative descriptive study, which thoroughly describes violence against children during the Covid-19 pandemic. The sample of this study was determined using the Non-Probability Sampling with the convenience sampling technique for 165 people. Based on the research results, the handling of violence against children includes 43% physical aspects, 38.8% psychological aspects and 18.2% neglect aspects. The form of treatment that often occurred with hitting amounted to 39.4% and was often done by fathers by 60.6% was a physical aspect. The role of parents, especially fathers, should educate so that children find good examples to be imitated, and the role of mothers as supervisors and provide advice to fathers in educating. Furthermore, researchers can formulate alternative solutions in answering the conditions that occur based on the results of this study through a follow-up study or research.

**Keywords** Violence against children; the covid-19 pandemic

## 1. Introduction

Currently the world is in a crisis era due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic (corona virus diseases-19). The virus that allegedly started to plague the city of Wuhan-China in December 2019 and is now spreading throughout the world, one of which is Indonesia. Various policies have been chosen by the central government in handling and suppressing the increase in Covid-19 cases in Indonesia. The PSBB (Large-Scale Social Restrictions) or quarantine policy is carried out in an effort to reduce interactions between individuals and groups that can provide access to the spread of the corona virus (Indonesia, 2020; Tabi'in, 2020).

Various government policies in dealing with the spread of covid-19 are the beginning of major changes in people's lives. In normal conditions, people can spend a day outside the home such as working, school, and on vacation with friends and family. Unlike the current conditions, people are obliged to apply stay at home (Tabi'in, 2020). This means that most people currently spend time at home with their families (Indonesia, 2020). Ideally, the stay at home policy in order to prevent the spread and increase the Covid-19 case is an opportunity for families to have good emotional relationships and build warm relationships with family.

However, this did not last long since the enactment of the policy. The condition that occurs today is that parents find it difficult because they seem to have a big challenge in accompanying their children at home. The challenges start from the confusion of parents in routine routine that continues to be the same every day, children feel bored and not excited when studying at home, children quickly feel bored with activities at home, and parents, especially mothers, have to take all roles at home. parents, teachers, and friends "for their children. Parents need to ensure that their child's growth and development goes well in accordance with their developmental tasks. This is a big challenge for parents, because children tend to feel more comfortable with their peers than parents (Hurlock, 2015). It is not uncommon for parents to feel stressed and feel they have no ability to educate their children at home. The inability of parents to educate children during the Covid-19 pandemic resulted in the emergence of various cases of violence against children.

Cases of violence against children continue to increase and increase during the Covid-19 pandemic (Kandedes, 2020) in all parts of the world. Data published by WHO shows that children around the world experience violence. Social restrictions, learning from home, and the economy decline, which impact the condition of children at home. Forms of violence have increased, both physical and psychological violence, and neglect by parents and social circles. Based on SIMFONI PPA data, on January 1 - June 19, 2020 there were 3,087 cases of violence against children, including 852 physical violence, 768 psychological violence, and 1,848 cases of sexual violence, this figure is classified as very high (KPPA, 2020). The data is recorded, there are still many unregistered and exposed cases out there.

Violence in children causes the child's health condition to be dangerous and affects the child's development or threatens the child's self-esteem (Kandedes, 2020). Children who experience physical abuse result in various psychological impacts and trauma. During a pandemic, children tend to suffer minor, serious injuries, and possibly lose their lives. Various forms of physical violence against children such as the results of Wardani and Hendriana's research that children can be pinched because they are not obedient, are yelled at 23% when they do not understand online learning which results in being scolded by 56%, cases of children being hit by 9% which results in children running away from home (Wardani & Hendriana, 2020), this is a common case during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Various impacts of violence on children have also become commonplace, such as resulting in children having less trust in others and difficulties in establishing social relationships with others, having feelings of worthlessness to themselves, difficulty regulating emotions, children having difficulty expressing emotions well to make their emotions restrained and came out unexpectedly. Even as an adult, he can distract from his depression, anxiety, or anger by drinking or taking drugs. In addition, psychological violence in children continues to increase. Psychological violence in children is very dangerous because it can affect children's emotional development. Children experience stress (Tabi'in, 2020), high anxiety, parents tend to yell at children often, scold for no apparent reason, underestimate children's abilities, children often choose to isolate themselves, and more extreme signs are suicide attempts. Furthermore, during the Covid-19 pandemic, children tended to accept rejection and neglect by their parents. This happens when parents do not care for or protect their children (Fitriani & Gelang, 2020)

## 2. Methods

This research was conducted to the people who live in the red zone area 19-Jabodetabek area, with a total sample of 165 people. Sampling was obtained by using convenience sampling method. This Research uses a quantitative approach with descriptive research methods. The data in this study were political data collected using the Instrument of violence in children distributed using the Google Form application with 4 alternative answers in the Likert scale model among the choices of answers are: (1) Always, (2) Often, (3) Sometimes and (4) Never. The instrument in this study is based on 3 indicators: 1) physical abuse, 2) psychological violence and 3) neglectfull. This study uses a quantitative approach. The data analysis technique used is descriptive statistics using the SPSS application.

## 3. Result

### Description of Violence in Children during the Covid-19 Pandemic

Based on the results of the research findings, the results of forms of violence in children can be seen from the aspects of physical, psychological and child neglect during the Covid-19 pandemic. Based on the findings, the following group data were obtained:

Table 1. Aspects of Violence in Children during the Covid-19 Pandemic

Aspek	Jumlah	%
Physical	71	43,0
psychological	64	38,8
Neglect	30	18,2

Based on the percentage table, it can be concluded that violence against children during this pandemic is quite high, especially in the form of physical violence that children receive during their learning from home. In accordance with the age of the child, violence occurs mostly in children in aged 6-14 years, the majority of whom are still at school age, namely elementary and junior high school education in Jakarta.

The forms of violence against children carried out by parents include the following aspects:

Table 2. Forms of Violence in Children

Aspects	Behavior forms	%
Physical	Hit	39,4
	Pinch	33,8
	Ear twitching	15,5
	Push	9,9
psychological	Cursing	28,6
	Scolding	27,0
	Snapped	27,0
	Threatening	17,5
Neglect	Lack of attention and affection	33,3
	Nutrition	23,3
	Health	20,0
	Theory	23,3

Thus it can be seen that there are several forms of violence perpetrated against children during the Covid-19 pandemic with the highest percentage in the aspect of physical violence in the form of hitting, pinching, pushing and pushing, then forms of psychological violence behavior are such as scolding, scolding, yelling, and threatening children and the forms of neglect that are carried out are neglecting children in terms of love and attention, neglecting children's nutrition, children's health and material aspects that children need. Thus, this form of violence is often seen and occurs against children during the Covid-19 pandemic.

#### The Intensity of Child Abuse during the Covid-19 Pandemic

Based on the findings of 3 forms of violence in children, the results of the intensity of violence against children committed by parents or surrounding families are obtained, namely;

Table 3. Percentage of Violence Treatment Intensity

Aspects	Intensity	%
Physical	Often	56,3
	Sometimes	28,2
	Rarely	15,5
psychological	Often	55,6
	Sometimes	31,7
	Rarely	12,7
Neglect	Often	50
	Sometimes	30
	Rarely	20

Thus it can be concluded that overall acts of violence against children during the Covid-19 pandemic have an intensity that is often carried out. This can be seen from the table above, each aspect of violence against children in the category often has a high percentage level, be it in the aspects of physical, psychological or neglect violence. Thus the provisional suspicion is that the longer this pandemic lasts, the longer the level of violence against children is perpetrated by both parents and their surrounding families.

#### Profile of Perpetrators of Violence in Children during the Covid-19 Pandemic

The profiles of perpetrators of violence against children obtained from the research results are as follows:

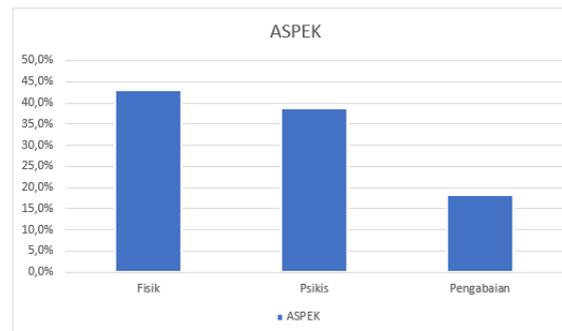
Table 4. Profile of Perpetrators of Violence

	Physical	psychological	Neglect
Father	60,6	57,8	53,3
Mother	39,4	42,2	46,7

Based on the findings in this study, it was found that perpetrators of violence against children during the Covid-19 pandemic were mostly perpetrated by fathers with a high percentage compared to mothers from all aspects studied, including physical, psychological and neglect. Thus overall violence against children at school age is carried out by parents which could be caused by the inability of parents to recognize children's growth and development, unable to provide assistance to children during the Covid-19 pandemic.

## 4. Discussion

Based on the exposure of the research results, it was found that the physical aspect was a form of abuse experienced by children during the Covid-19 pandemic by 43%. This has a direct impact on children including, lack of self-confidence, inhibiting the ability to participate in social activities, disturbing their health, reducing autonomy, both in the economic, political, socio-cultural and physical fields, self-confidence in their mental growth will be disturbed and can hinder the process of mental development and its future (Articlebessy, 2010). Physical aspect of violence against children should be avoided, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic. Not only parents, children also experience great pressure related to their duties as learners in educational institutions. At school age children need more love from their families so that children become more creative and enthusiastic about learning during a pandemic. The form of violence treatment that occurred against children was hitting at 39.4%, and the intensity of the occurrence of physical violence was included in the frequent category of 56.3%.



However, looking at the current conditions, there are still parents who consider violence to be effective in controlling their children (Halim, 2003). The impact of hitting violence by parents will make an impression on the child's mental state, another impact is that the child becomes confused so that the child is gloomy and also the child has a grudge attitude to take revenge on the harsh treatment he received to others (Halim, 2003). Furthermore, the results of the study show that the profile of violence treatment is often carried out by fathers to their children, both physically and psychologically or neglecting the children. According to Gelles Richard J. (1982), one of the factors in the occurrence of violence against children is that social stress caused by various social conditions increases the risk of violence against children in the family.

The aspect of neglect is the second highest form of violence, namely the lack of attention and affection for children, this can have an impact on individual academic development. In line with the results of the study (Watson & Lindgren, 1979) they concluded that children who lack parental care and attention tend to have decreased academic ability or poor learning achievement, late social activity, and limited social interaction. Based on this explanation, parents should give sufficient attention and affection to the child, if this form of treatment continues to be felt by the child, it will have an impact on the decline in the child's academic quality. The psychological aspect in the treatment of violence against children was the second highest received by children during the Covid-19 pandemic at 38.8%. According to (Kwako et.al, 2010) that the source of violence in children appears as psychopathological behavior and attachment damage in childhood. In this case, the interpersonal relationship between children and parents affects the next child's life.

## 5. Conclusion

The form of violence against children consists of several aspects. The physical aspect most often occurred at 43%, the psychological aspect was 39% and the neglect aspect was 18%. Based on the treatment of violence, the physical aspect of the violence was pinching at 39.4% and pinching at 33.8%. The intensity of the treatment of violence in the physical aspect was 56.3% more common than the psychological aspect and the neglect aspect. In household life, the profile of the father who abused children more often was 60.6% of the physical aspect, 57.8 of the psychological aspect and 53.3 the neglectful aspect.

---

## REFERENCES

- [39] Abebe, Gedif Meseret. "Emerging and Re-Emerging Viral Diseases: The Case of Coronavirus Disease-19 (COVID-19)." *International Journal of Virology and AIDS* 7, no. 1 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.23937/2469-567x/1510067>.
- [40] Affleck, Glenn, and Howard Tennen. "Construing Benefits from Adversity: Adaptational Significance and Dispositional Underpinnings." *Journal of Personality* 64, no. 4 (1996): 899–922.
- [41] Alvian, Yusak, and Steven Laudry. "Propaganda Covid-19 Terhadap Awareness Masyarakat Surabaya Untuk Mengikuti Program Kerja Pemerintah." *Jurnal Komunikasi Profesional* 4, no. 1 (2020): 27–41. <https://doi.org/10.25139/jkp.v4i1.2569>.
- [42] Bhat, Ritesh, Varun Kumar Singh, Nithesh Naik, C Raghavendra Kamath, Prashant Mulimani, and Niranjana Kulkarni. "COVID 2019 Outbreak: The Disappointment in Indian Teachers." *Asian Journal of Psychiatry* 50 (2020): 102047.
- [43] Bishop, M., and A. P. Greeff. "Resilience in Families in Which a Member Has Been Diagnosed with Schizophrenia." *Journal of Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing* 22, no. 7 (2015): 463–71. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jpm.12230>.
- [44] Creswell, J. W. (2017). *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches*. Sage Publications.

- [45] Dornyei, Z. (2007). *Research methods in applied linguistics: Quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methodologies*. Oxford University Press Oxford.
- [46] Fitriani, L., & Gelang, S. B. (2020). Membangun Pendidikan Ramah Anak Dalam Keluarga Di Era Pandemi Covid-19. *Jurnal Kesetaraan Dan Keadilan Gender*, 15(1), 32–41.
- [47] Halim, A. N. (2003). *Anak Saleh Dambaan Keluarga*. Yogyakarta: Mitra Pustaka.
- [48] Hurlock, E. B. (2015). Suatu Pendekatan Sepanjang Rentang Kehidupan. In Ridwan (Ed.), *Psikologi Perkembangan (5th ed.)*. Jakarta: Erlangga.
- [49] Indonesia, K. K. R. (2020). Pedoman Pencegahan dan Pengendalian coronavirus disease (covid-19).
- [50] Kandedes, L. (2020). Kekerasan Terhadap Anak Dimasa Pandemi Covid-19. *Jurnal Harkat*, 16(1), 66–76.
- [51] KPPA. (2020). Angka Kekerasan Terhadap Anak Tinggi di Masa Pandemi, Kemen PPPA Sosialisasikan Protokol Perlindungan Anak. Retrieved from Kemen PPA: <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/2738/angka-kekerasan-terhadap-anak-tinggi-di-masa-pandemi-kemen-pppa-sosialisasikan-protokol-perlindungan-anak>
- [52] Kwako, L. E., Noll, J. G., Putnam, F. W., & Trickett, P. K. (2010). Childhood sexual abuse and attachment: An intergenerational perspective. *Clinical child psychology and psychiatry*, 15(3), 407-422.
- [53] McCusker, K., & Gunaydin, S. (2015). Research using qualitative, quantitative or mixed methods and choice based on the research. *Perfusion (United Kingdom)*, 30(7), 537–542. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0267659114559116>
- [54] Pasalbessy, J. D. (2010). Dampak tindak kekerasan terhadap perempuan dan anak serta solusinya. *Jurnal Sasi*, 16(3).
- [55] Watson, R. I., & Lindgren, H. C. (1979). *Psychology of the Child and the Adolescent*. Macmillan.
- [56] Tabi'in, A. (2020). Problematika Stay At Home Pada Anak Usia Dini Di Tengah Pandemi Covid-19. *Jurnal Golden Age, Universitas Hamzanwadi*, 4(1), 190–200.
- [57] Wardani, D. A., & Hendriana, I. (2020). Dicubit dan Dimarahi Bentuk Kekerasan Anak Paling Sering di Masa Pandemi COVID-19. *VOI*. Retrieved from <https://voi.id/berita/14137/dicubit-dan-dimarahi-bentuk-kekerasan-anak-paling-sering-di-masa-pandemi-covid-19>
- [58] Wisdom, J., & Creswell, J. W. (2013). Integrating quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis while studying patient-centered medical home models. In *Agency for Healthcare Reseach and Quality* (pp. 1–5). [https://doi.org/No. 13-0028-EF](https://doi.org/No.13-0028-EF).
- [59] Yusuf, A. . (2016). *Metode penelitian kuantitatif, kualitatif & penelitian gabungan*. Prenada Media.
- [60]