

A Case Study of Child Sexual Abuse: Psychological Dynamic

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ABSTRACT

Indonesia entered the national emergency of sexual violence against children. Every year the incidence of child sexual abuse increases. Child sexual abuse had the effects, not only physical but also psychological effects, both in the short and long term. This study aimed to describe the dynamic and psychological impact on the child after experiencing sexual abuse. This research was conducted in the Bekasi, West Java Province, Indonesia in 2016. This study used a qualitative study with case study approach. Samples were taken with a purposeful sampling technique, the main informants were victims, the perpetrator, and the victim's parents, and the supporting informants were the teacher and psychologist. Data collection technique was carried out by in-depth interviews, observation, and document study. The results of this study showed that the psychological dynamics of victims of child sexual abuse had the same pattern. Characteristics of victims who were quiet and introvert, and families who lack supervision and protection of the subject, both influenced each other against the occurrence of child sexual violence and made the victim got a traumatic experience.

Keywords: Child Sexual Abuse, Psychological Dynamic, Case Study

INTRODUCTION

Child sexual abuse (CSA) is recognised as a significant public health problem due to its prevalence, incidence, and consequences¹. The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines CSA as the involvement of a child in sexual activity that he or she does not fully comprehend and is unable to give informed consent to, or for which the child is not developmentally prepared, or else that violate the laws or social taboos of society².

The term CSA includes a range of activities like intercourse, attempted intercourse, oral-genital contact, fondling of genitals directly or through clothing, exhibitionism or exposing children to adult sexual activity or pornography, and the use of the child for prostitution or pornography³.

Every year the incidence of CSA in Indonesia continues to increase. Indonesia Commission of Protection of Children monitoring results from 2011 to 2014 have a significant increase, in 2011 there were 2178 cases, 2012 there were 3512 cases, in 2013 there were 4311 cases, in 2014 there were 5066 cases⁴. However, the data is considered to be inaccurate, because the data is only based on complaint reports, not many cases of sexual violence against children are reported⁵. This is like the phenomenon of icebergs because only a small percentage of the cases are revealed, while there are still many other cases in the society that have not been revealed and not reached the realm of law. Each of these problems is considered to be a domestic family problem that no one else needs to know⁶.

Based on data from the Indonesian National Commission for Child Protection (KNPAI), the five most

provinces in cases of sexual violence in children are DKI Jakarta, West Java, East Java, South Sumatra, Aceh⁴. West Java is one of the provinces with the highest number of CSA in Indonesia, and Bekasi is the highest areas of cases of CSA in West Java. Cases of child CSA in Bekasi reach 60% and occur in children under the age of 13⁴.

As a UN report indicates, violence against children is often silenced and there is a paucity of statistical data on the subject. In this sense, learning about the impact of abuse and the profile of victims is essential to reduce the number of cases. Given this scenario, this paper seeks to identify the profile, dynamic and the psychological impacts of the abused child. Therefore, the sooner the child of abuse cases is disclosed, the greater the probability of providing effective treatment and solving or remedying damages.

Victims of childhood sexual abuse may experience a range of effects – both immediate (i.e. occurring within two years from the incident) and long-term⁷. The immediate effects referred to as symptoms may occur in all areas of development: sexual, emotional, social, cognitive, and physical (somatic), and they depend mainly on the child's age. For example, a school-age child may demonstrate symptoms were making up the "ideal child syndrome", while symptoms shown by an adolescent may include self-injuries and suicide attempts⁸.

The negative outcomes associated with child maltreatment are numerous, including increased aggression, social withdrawal, depression, low self-esteem, and poor school performance⁹.

Psychological effects that have been consistently associated in the research with child sexual abuse include post-traumatic symptoms, depression, substance abuse, helplessness, negative attributions, aggressive behaviors and conduct problems, eating disorders, and anxiety¹⁰. More recently child sexual abuse has also been linked to psychotic disorders including schizophrenia and delusional disorder as well as personality disorders¹¹.

Efforts to prevent CSA is one of the programs that has become an international agenda, especially in the field of reproductive health as stated in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's). SDG's agreed that one of the

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main focuses of the International is reproductive health issues, including achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls with one of the indicators, namely efforts to reduce violence against women and children¹².

Indonesia government has made various efforts to address the problem of CSA, including the child protection law number: 23 of 2002, namely the government guarantees and protects children and their rights so that they can live, grow, develop and participate, optimally according to their dignity and human dignity, and get protection from violence and discrimination. School Health Unit (UKS), Information Center for Adolescent Reproductive Health Counseling (PIK-KRR), Gen-Re from BKKBN.

The involvement of parents, especially mothers, is essential in providing child protection, especially in preventing the occurrence of sexual violence in children. The involvement in question is that the parents must have literacy on preventing child sexual violence by providing reproductive health education, self-awareness, and skills in preventing child sexual abuse. Parents should also have an awareness of sudden behavioral changes in children, and they are often too late to realize that their children have become victims of sexual abuse⁹.

Based on the results of a preliminary study that was strengthened by a study of various programs to prevent CSA that have been ongoing to date, it has not provided leverage to decrease the number of incidents of CSA. It because the program has not fully involved parents and children in preventing sexual violence. The results of the initial interview revealed that the child had given a signal of abuse, but the parents did not respond because of a lack of understanding so as not to anticipate until the child experienced sexual violence.

The purpose of this study aimed to describe the dynamic and psychological impact on a child after experiencing sexual abuse.

METHOD

This study used qualitative study with case study approach that aimed to describe the dynamic and psychological impact on a child after experiencing sexual abuse. Samples were taken by purposive sampling technique to reached saturation. The main informants were children victims of sexual abuse as many as four people, the perpetrator as many as four people, and parents of victims as many as three people, while supporting informants were victim teachers and psychologists.

The study was conducted in Bekasi during 2016. Data collection techniques were carried out by using in-depth interviews, observation, and document study. Observation and document study based on the results of psychological examinations on victims conducted by psychologists. The examination aimed to measure the psychological impact of changes in the personality and intelligence of children. So that a comprehensive picture of what happens to children is obtained. The examination is a graphical test to see changes in the child's personality with projection techniques used to understand a person's personality, while for intelligence assessment measurement is done using WISC (Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children).

RESULTS

Offender Characteristics: All the offenders were a male, the youngest was 25 years old, and the oldest was 63 years old. The level of education varies with the lowest of primary school, and the highest graduated from college. They lived in low socio-economic conditions.

Table 1: Offender Characteristics

Code	Gender	Age	Education	Socio-economic Status
Inf 1	Male	63	Elementary School	Low
Inf 2	Male	44	Senior High School	Low
Inf 3	Male	38	Bachelor	Middle
Inf 4	Male	25	Senior High School	Low

Based on the residence of offenders lived in densely populated settlements with middle and low socioeconomic conditions. The results of interviews and environmental observations indicate that low socio-economic factors are a trigger for people to do CSA. Field observations into the live-abode environment show that under dense living conditions and low socioeconomic conditions are factors that influence a person's sexual violence in children.

Table 2: Offender Social Environment Background

Informant	Social Environment Background
Inf 1	Living in rented and densely populated has no permanent job
Inf 2	Living in elementary school as a school guard, earning under the minimum wage, looks for an extra job as a teacher in the afternoon
Inf 3	Working as a factory employee, living with parents, earning according to minimum wage
Inf 4	Working in the bureau, living with the kinsman, earning under the minimum wage

Victims and Parents Characteristics: Overall, victim ages were in childhood, they all were under 12 years. They all still studied in an elementary school. Three victims were girls, and one victim was a boy. Background of victim's parents, they all were in adulthood, with a low-middle education level.

Table 3: Victims And Parents Characteristics

Code	Gender	Informant	Age	Education
Inf 5	Female	Parent	27	Senior High School
Inf 6	Female	Parent	42	Junior High School
Inf 7	Female	Parent	33	Senior High School
Inf 8	Female	Victim	6	Elementary School
Inf 9	Female	Victim	7	Elementary School
Inf 10	Female	Victim	8	Elementary School
Inf 11	Male	Victim	10	Elementary School

Similar to the offenders, all the victims came from a low socio-economic background, they lived in densely populated settlements with middle and low socio-economic conditions.

Table 4: Victim Family Social-economic and Environment Background

Informant	Social-economic and Environment Background
Inf 5	Living in a house occupied by parents and offenders (uncles). Both parents do not have a permanent job
Inf 6	Stay in a rented house with a crowded location. The only mother works, earning under the minimum wage
Inf 7	Living in a house with densely populated areas. The only husband works with income according to the minimum wage

Relationships Context: Offenders of child sexual abuse include intra-familial offenders (individuals within the victim's family) and extra-familial perpetrators (individuals outside of the victim's family).

The results of in-depth interviews with informants found the fact that the victim had a close relationship with the perpetrator. Researchers categorize the three criteria for the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator

1. Family relationships, one offender was the victim's uncle
2. Neighbor relations, two offenders, are neighbors of victims who have been considered like family.
3. Teacher Relationship, 1 offenders was the victim's teacher

Victim's Personality before experience: The study was conducted through in-depth interviews with the victim's parents how the child's personality before experiencing child sexual abuse, with the following results:

1. Three child informants who are victims of CSA tend to be quiet and obedient children and categorized as a closed personality or introverted
2. One child informant of CSA is carefree and active in the activity and categorizes as open personality or extroverted.

Victim's Personality after experience: Graphics test results show that the personality of the victim after experiencing sexual violence changes to become more introverted and has a deep traumatic, this is supported by information from parents also states that after the incident children tend to be moody and learning achievement also decreases.

The impact of trauma faced by children will have a long-term impact if it is not addressed and given psychological assistance because victims of sexual violence will become offenders of sexual violence if not handled properly.

The following graphical test results of victims:

Table 5: Matrix of Graphic Test Result

Code	Personality
Inf 8	save much emotion, quiet, traumatized by the problems he faced
Inf 9	There is pressure from the outside that he feels, he has much turmoil in his feelings, there is anger, resentment, trauma, but this situation he presses personally
Inf 10	There was an influence of the past that affected him sharply, the event leaving a deep trauma
Inf 11	There is a less pleasant experience he feels, but he covers it in such a way because he is afraid of being scolded by a parent or teacher

The results of the measurement of graphics tests are supported by triangulation of sources, parents, and teachers, how is the psychological condition of the child's personality after experiencing sexual abuse in this child. Following are the results of source triangulation conducted from the results of in-depth interviews:

Table 6: Triangulation of Sources

Code	Personality
Inf 5 (parent)	Since this incident my child had become a moody person, previously my child was quiet but cheerful
Inf 6 (parent)	Since this incident, my child has been more depressed and kept quiet, not opened, before my child talked a lot
Inf 12 (teacher)	The child becomes more closed and learning achievement decreases
Inf 13 (psychologist)	The victim's personality after experiencing sexual violence becomes more introverted, and they experience deep trauma

DISCUSSION

Based on the social background of the offenders, they live in densely populated settlements with medium and low socioeconomic conditions. Related to the background of victim's parents, they all were in adulthood, with a low-middle education and socio-economic level.

The study proposed by Grauerholz¹³, analyzed the following factors of child sexual abuse at three levels:

1. *microsystem* – early family experiences (family breakdown, disorganization and dysfunction, marital dysfunctions, non-supportive parents, and a patriarchal family structure), risk of exposure to violence / contact with the perpetrator (traumatic sexualization, dissociative disorders, alcohol abuse, involvement in deviant behaviours, stigmatization, and low self-esteem), higher risk that the abuser will choose violent action (perceiving the victim as an easy target, seeing violence as justified, the victim's reduced ability to respond in an assertive and effective way to unwanted sexual proposals)
2. *exosystem* – lack of resources (low socioeconomic status, risky living conditions, early or single parenting, divorce), lack of alternatives (due to weak family bonds, lack of support, and social isolation)
3. *macrosystem* – cultural tendency to blame the victim, the concept of femininity based on the good girl / bad girl differentiation

The occurrence of CSA is influenced by many interrelated factors, not just a single factor. The shift of social values in society with moral and ethical values previously held firmly in the life of society is no longer considered.

A study reviewed the literature on the relationships between neighbourhood and child maltreatment (victim). According to these investigators, numerous studies demonstrate that child victim cases are concentrated in disadvantaged areas. Poor and low-income families are more likely to be known by social/human service agencies (including child protective services) for reasons linked to economic disadvantage, low-quality living conditions and schools, crime, and child neglect¹⁴.

The environment has a dominant influence in all individual behavior including offenders of sexual violence, environmental setting not only physically renewed but also psychologically and socially society therein⁹. The environment in which individuals live and grow greatly affects the behaviour of the individual in the future.

This shows that the condition of the morality of society in the environment has shifted bad values of norms, environment, and family which should be as a protector for a child but become a perpetrator of sexual violence. The condition of public morality in an environment also affect the potential of sexual violence significantly¹⁵.

The offender with the victim has a close relationship and near the victim even have a family relationship like an uncle. Social status are usually difficult to maintain the limits of personal space. The results of the study found the fact that the victim had a close relationship with the perpetrator, both of a familiar first victim and non-familiar first victim. It indicates that sexual abuse incidents first tend to occur against children to whom offenders have routine access, in contexts and during times where the offenders and victims are most likely to be interacting with each other in the milieu of their usual routines and activities¹⁶.

The study showed that victims of CSA were a closed personality or introverted. Many cases of sexual violence occur with repetitive conditions that children with introverts prefer to withdraw and hide. Not infrequently parents are late to know sex events in their children. This is in line with Jatmika Individuals with introverted personality types who have quiet, control, introspective, reflective, rarely behave aggressively, are not easily lost in patience, do not like to take exclusive decisions¹⁷, this is consistent with the introverted character indicator that is to have self-control with feelings of self, to store feelings within oneself.

The results of the study, there were changes in the personality of the child before and after experiencing sexual abuse. The impacts seen after sexual violence experienced were they felt fear and anxiety, had a deep traumatic, tend to be moody, more introvert, ignore their condition, withdraw from the social environment, and learning achievement decreased.

A previous study revealed that the advantages possessed by individuals with an introverted tendency could make a weakness that is not beneficial for the individual concerned. Too introspective can be a cynical sense of awareness or a negative feeling, an erratic feeling arises, a self-devaluation and affect the problem that must be faced. Tranquillity and prudence can be excess and a barrier and produce an obsession with the tendency of introversion that is often found to be related to anxiety, depression and suicidal tendencies¹⁸.

According to result study, it shows that the personality of the victim after experiencing sexual violence changes to become more introverted and has a deep traumatic, this is supported by information from parents also states that after the incident children tend to be moody and learning achievement also decreases. A previous study categorized four types of effects of trauma due to sexual violence experienced by children²⁰, namely:

Betrayal: Trust is the primary basis for victims of sexual violence. As a child, having trust in parents and trust is understood and understood. However, the child's

confidence and parental authority become a threat to the child.

Sexual Trauma (Traumatic sexualization): Russel (Tower, 2002) found that women who experience sexual violence tend to reject sexual relations, and as a consequence become victims of sexual violence in the household. Finkelhor (Tower, 2002) notes that victims prefer same-sex couples because they think men cannot be trusted.

Fear penetrates the life of the victim. Nightmares, phobias, and anxiety experienced by victims are accompanied by pain. Feelings of helplessness make individuals feel weak. Victims feel unable and less productive at work. Some victims also felt pain in their bodies. Conversely, other victims have excessive intensity and encouragement in themselves (Finkelhor, 2009).

Stigmatization: Victims of sexual violence feel guilty, ashamed, have a terrible self-image. Guilt and shame are formed due to helplessness and feel that they do not have the power to control themselves. Children as victims often feel different from others, and some victims are angry with their bodies due to the persecution they experience. Other victims use drugs and alcoholic drinks to punish their bodies, blunt their senses, or try to avoid the memory of these events²⁰.

There are many effects of CSA, relationship crisis with a partner, eating and sleeping disorder remained between work and psychological effects on childhood sexual abuse. However, psychological effects are very crucial for the children who have been sexually abused. Psychological effects can impact on their life adversely and those can lead to work effects and even other effects e.g. injury, harm, and risk. This problem affects both the victims and rest of the members of the family and even in communities. However, this paper identified the possible effects on childhood sexual abuse regarding their psychological and their employment situation and tried to find out the future impact of those effects.

Most of the victim have an introvert personality. This pattern of behavior characterizes the offender who has a preference for children but lacks the interpersonal skills necessary to seduce them. Therefore, he typically engages in a minimal amount of verbal communication with his victims and usually molests strangers or very young children²¹.

The psychological dynamics of victims of child sexual abuse: Sexual violence is a form of sexual contact or another form that is not sexually desirable. Sexual violence usually includes psychological or physical problems²².

The impact on victims of sexual violence is not only a physical impact but a psychological impact. Child sexual abuse is complex and can affect survivors in different ways in different areas over the years: trust, safety, power, physical health, emotional and spiritual well-being, and social relationships¹⁰.

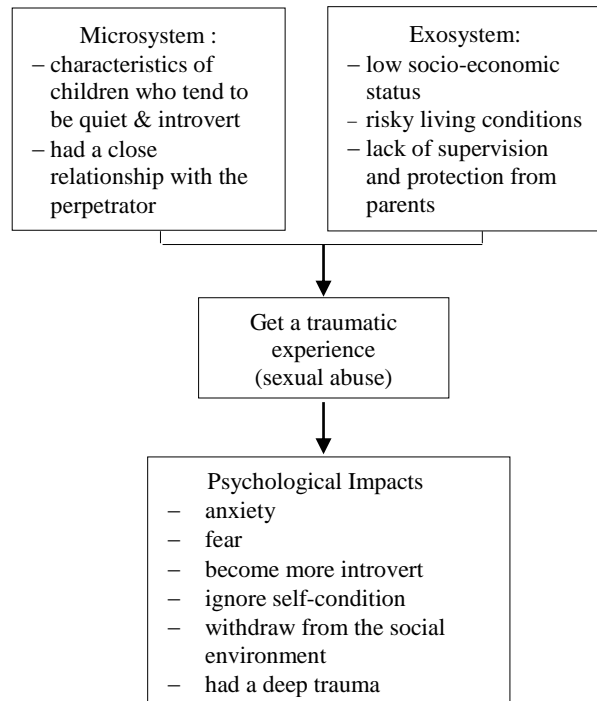
Childhood sexual abuse has been correlated with higher levels of depression, guilt, shame, self-blame, eating disorders, somatic concerns, anxiety, dissociative patterns, repression, denial, sexual problems, and relationship problems²³.

Based on the results of data analysis, it was found that the results of research in the psychological dynamics of

victims of sexual violence have the same pattern, namely the condition of lack of supervision and protection of adults, in this case, the context is parents and family. The second pattern is the characteristic of children who experience sexual violence having the same character, as children who tend to be quiet, do not fight when they are coerced by the perpetrator.

The psychological dynamics of victims of sexual violence can be seen in the chart below:

Fig. 1 Illustration of the Psychological Dynamics of Child Victims of Sexual Abuse



Based on the description above, it can be explained that the psychological dynamics of victims of sexual violence have the same pattern, which starts with the internal and external conditions of the subject. External factors (exosystem) are the lack of supervision and protection from families so that when engaging with the social environment do not have signs so that it is easy to be deceived by others. While from internal factors (microsystem), the characteristics of subjects who tend to be quiet and resigned not to fight are one of the factors causing individuals to become victims of sexual violence.

The relationship between psychological aspects with social conditions that affect an individual's ability to deal with pressure. This social condition then influences feelings and actions that will affect self-assessment. Negative social conditions will make individuals have worthless feelings and instill in themselves worthless.

The emergence of social anxiety over what he is facing makes him develop inferiority or inferiority complex to manipulate behavior in his social environment. His anxiety is covered by withdrawal from the environment, there is an individual's reluctance to interact with the social. The avoidance of this social environment was realized by often

not going to school without reason. Withdrawal in a social environment is a way of self-protection developed by individuals.

CONCLUSIONS

The psychological dynamics of victims of sexual violence have the same pattern, which starts with the internal and external conditions of the subject. Internal conditions with characteristics of subjects who tend to be quiet and family conditions that provide less supervision on the subject. Both influence each other against the occurrence of acts of sexual violence that make it a traumatic experience. The traumatic behavior is posttraumatic stress (PTSD), marked by a low self-assessment, self-neglect, and disturbing memories.

There are still many cases involving children in Indonesia and one of them is the case of sexual harassment. This is caused by many factors, including environmental factors, technology, and lack of supervision from various parties. Children who are sexually abused will experience psychological and physical disruption. In Indonesia, alone cases of sexual harassment on children are still not noticed by the National Commission for Child Protection, even though if seen many cases of abuse in children in Indonesia that need more attention and must be followed up immediately.

The role of parents is very influential and is needed to keep children from avoiding these crimes. Also, if the child has become a victim, parents and family must always accompany and provide support to the child so that the child feels loved, valuable and can restore his confidence again. If the child has begun to enter a new environment namely school, the school must provide protection, comfort, and security

Because at this time the child is looking for an identity and explore himself, then parents and related parties such as school must play an important role to help children in the process of seeking identity. Besides, the performance of the child protection commission should be improved so that child sexual abuse cases can be followed up for better child development.

There needs to be a system-based approach to handling CSA, an active child protection system requires the existence of interrelated components. These components include a social welfare system for children and families, an appropriate justice system with international standards, and mechanisms to encourage appropriate behavior in society. In addition, a legal and policy framework is needed that supports and data and information systems for child protection

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