

MOTHER AND FATHER PERCEPTIONS ABOUT FORMS OF CHILD VIOLENCE

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ABSTRACT

Various laws in various countries and the convention on the rights of the child in 1989 state that every child must be protected against child abuse. Forms of child abuse can be in the form of discrimination, both physical and sexual exploitation, neglect, cruelty, violence and abuse, injustice and other mistreatment. Midwives have an important role in counseling and health education, not only for women, but also for families and communities. This activity includes antenatal education & preparation for parenthood as well. The aim was to determine mother-father perceptions of forms of child abuse and the factors that influence them. This type of research is descriptive, with a cross-sectional research design. Data was collected using a questionnaire. There is no significant relationship between mother-father' perceptions of forms of violence against children and parents age, level of education, number of children, parent-child interaction. There is a significant relationship between mother-father perceptions of forms of violence against children with the level of parental knowledge (P value 0.000), economic level (P value 0.007)

Keywords: *abuse; forms of child violence; mother-father' perceptions*

INTRODUCTION

The family is the first environment in a child's life, a place where children learn and express themselves as social beings. The family provides the basis for the formation of behavior, character, morals and education for children. Education in the family greatly determines one's attitude, because parents are the basis of values for children. Parenting, roles and responsibilities carried out by parents in applying discipline to children is not an easy job, where sometimes parents experience obstacles. These obstacles lead to mistreatment of children(UNCRC, 2009).

Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child of 1924 and in the Declaration of the Rights of the Child adopted by the General Assembly on 20 November 1959 and recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in the International Covenant on Civil and

Political Rights (in particular in articles 23 and 24), in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (in particular in article 10) and in the statutes and relevant instruments of specialized agencies and international organizations concerned with the welfare of children. In the 1989 UN convention on the rights of the child, children are also entitled to adequate housing and food and drink to support their growth and development. The right to participate provides an opportunity for children to express opinions freely in accordance with their lives as children. Children also have the right to receive information according to their age . (Lopatka, 2007).

In the convention on the rights of the child, children are entitled to the full and harmonious development of his or her personality, should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding. In fact, the duty of every country is to reduce the mortality rate of mothers and nana , ensuring the provision of necessary medical assistance and health care for all children in the country, eradicating disease and malnutrition, ensuring pre- and postnatal health care for mothers to have healthy children, ensuring all groups related to child care and the children themselves get health education and get support in gaining knowledge to optimize child growth and development ((UNCRC, 2009)

Violence against children in the sense of violence and neglect of children is: "all forms of physical or emotional abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, commercial exploitation or other exploitation that results in actual or potential injury or loss to the child's health, child survival, child development , or the dignity of the child which is carried out in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power". Violence against children in general can be categorized into neglecting the fulfillment of children's needs, physical violence, psychological violence, and sexual violence (Children, 2020)..

Currently there are still many cases of child abuse that occur in Indonesia. The phenomenon of violence can be seen from the data on violations of children's rights collected by Komnas Anak from the main data of child protection agencies in 30 provinces in Indonesia and the agency's complaint service. P2TP2A data (institutions concerned with child protection) for 2022 state that there have been 21,241 Indonesian children who have become victims of violence in 2022. This is in line with the results of data from the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (PPPA) (Di, 2020).

Forms of child abuse can be divided into several items: physical abuse, neglected, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, abandonment, parental substance use an human trafficking

(Childwelfare, 2019). KOMNAS children collected reports from 33 child protection agencies in the province and district/city that the perpetrators of violence against children were mostly those closest to the child, namely family or neighbors and during the period from January to June 2008 as many as 12,726 children became victims of sexual violence from those closest to them. they are like biological/step/adoptive parents, teachers, uncles, grandparents and neighbours. These statistics, plus data on the number of child abduction cases, child trafficking cases, children exposed to cigarette smoke, children victims of drug trafficking, children who cannot access educational facilities, children who have not been touched by health services and children who do not have birth certificates.

Other forms of child abuse besides physical violence are child abuse, emotional violence and economic violence. Of all the forms of violence Of all the possible forms of emotional violence is the most difficult to define. Emotional abuse can include name-calling, teasing, degradation, abuse of a child's pet, excessive criticism, inappropriate or excessive demands, termination of communication, or insults. or humiliation. Victims of emotional abuse may react by distancing themselves from the abuser, internalizing harsh words or by insulting the abuser back. Emotional abuse can result in abnormal or disrupted affection, a tendency for victims to blame themselves for the abuse, learning to be helpless, and overly passive. If violence against children in the household is carried out by parents, then it can be called domestic violence. Acts of domestic violence that are included in acts of domestic violence are giving suffering both physically and mentally beyond certain limits to other people who are in the same house; such as spouses, children or parents and the acts of violence are committed at home.

Most countries with violence against children laws consider the suffering from physical injury or conduct that places a child at obvious risk of serious injury or death to be illegitimate. Beyond this, there are quite a few variations. The distinction between child discipline and acts of violence is often poorly defined. Cultural norms about what constitutes violent behavior vary widely: professionals as well as the wider society disagree on what constitutes violent behavior (Hollin et al., 2010) (Shafe & Hutchinson, 2014). Some professionals working in the human field claim that cultural norms related to corporal punishment are one of the causes of violence against children and they have launched campaigns to redefine these norms.

Health provider have an important role in counseling and health education, for families and communities. This activity should cover antenatal education and preparation

for parenthood and could extend to women's health, sexual or reproductive health and child care. Considering that the incidence of violence against children continues to increase, the consequences are not small, especially affecting the development of children's health physically and psychologically, demanding the important role of midwives in improving the quality of services for women and the ability of parents to care for their children through parentcraft education.

Given how important the role of parents is as the main protector and who creates the first environment in a child's life, the authors are interested in conducting research on the perceptions of mothers and fathers towards forms of child violence and what factors influence it.

METHOD

This research method is a descriptive study with a cross-sectional design in one of the areas in East Jakarta. The sample of this study were 120 parents. The inclusion criteria in this study were parents who have living children without a history of dying children and a maximum of 3 children. Exclusion criteria were parents with children with special needs.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The characteristics of the respondents in the univariate analysis in this study are as follows

Table 1. Respondent Characteristic

Variabel	n	%
Knowledge about child abuse form		
Less	103	85.8
good	17	14.2
Economical status		
Low	98	81.7
mediaum	22	18.3

Based on table 1, it can be seen that of the 120 research samples, most of them have a low level of knowledge (85.8%) and have an economic level equal to or less than the regional average minimum wage (81.7%).

For characteristics related to parents' perceptions of forms of child violence, they are distinguished into positive perceptions and negative perceptions. Positive perceptions

mean that parents perceive forms of child abuse according to WHO child conventions, negative perceptions mean those that are not in accordance with WHO conventions.

Table 2. Mother and Father perception on Form Child abuse

variable	n	%
Positif	28	23.3
negatif	92	76.7

Based on table 2, it can be seen that the perceptions of fathers and mothers regarding forms of child violence are mostly not in accordance with the conventions of children's rights (76.7%). From the results of this study, the perceptions of fathers and mothers about forms of child abuse that are different from the convention on the rights of the child from WHO in 1989 are:

- a. mothers and fathers feel that children are entirely the rights of parents
- b. parents have the right to educate their children in their own way
- c. parents still think that words that compare or say children must match the parents' version of good indicators are not a form of violence
- d. how to educate boys - boys must be harder than girls
- e. The cause of parents punishing children is because of the child's mistakes
- f. Forming a disciplined child must be considered effective with violence
- g. The act of hitting children in certain parts is one of the efforts to enforce child discipline and not physical violence
- h. Scolding children is a natural thing for parents to do to educate their children.
- i. When parents cannot provide enough food for children, it is not considered a form of violence against children

The results of this study are similar to the results of a study by Zahrani et al, 2017 which found variations in parents' perceptions of forms of child violence. Even this perception has an impact on physical and emotional violence against their children In Ahrani's research, parents' history of physical abuse, young parents, witnesses to domestic violence, and poor self control has a predisposing factor in the incidence of child abuse.(Zahrani, 2017). This was also found by a researcher in Thailand that parental background was an influencing factor on parents' perceptions of child violence (Auemaneekul, 2013)

Feldman (1997) suggests that the perception component consists of three indicators, namely: 1) the actor of the perception, 2) the target of the perception, 3) the situation in which the perception is made. Almost the same as what was stated by Feldman, Robbins (1998) suggests that there are three factors that influence perception, namely: 1) perceptual actors, because they are influenced by individual characteristics that also influence such as attitudes, motives, interests, interests, experiences and expectations , 2) the object/target that is perceived, for example a striking appearance attracts more attention, and 3) the situation where the perception is carried out. Thus, the perception of parents about forms of child abuse is a mental activity of parents in the process of organizing and translating impressions, judgments, and opinions in feeling and interpreting forms of child violence based on the stimulation and information displayed by the child and the surrounding environment (Feldman, 1997).

Inaccurate parental perceptions of forms of child abuse will make parents unconsciously abuse children under the pretext of disciplining children. Violence that is often considered reasonable by the parents of the respondents in this study is yelling, pinching, giving bad labels and giving punishments which, if analyzed again, are included in emotional violence against children. These misperceptions include: stereotyping, halo effect, and projection. Next is a table about the perceptions of fathers and mothers about forms of child abuse and their relationship with other variables (People, n.d.)(Sigler & Johnson, 2004)(Winston & Milligan-lecroy, 2020)(Miragoli et al., 2018)

Table 3
The relationship between parental characteristics and the perceptions of fathers and mothers about forms of child abuse

Variable	Perception of father and mother				n	%	P Value	95% CI
	Negatif		Positif					
	n	%	n	%				
Knowledge								
Less	87	72.5	16	13.3	103	85.8	0.000	4.044 – 42.115
Good	5	4.2	12	10.0	17	14.2		
Total	92	76.7	28	23.3	120	100		
Economical status								
Low	80	66.7	18	15	98	81.7	0.007	1.386 – 9.895
Medium	12	10.0	10	8.3	22	18.3		
Total	92	76.7	28	23.3	120	100		

From table 3 it can be seen that knowledge has a significant relationship with the perceptions of fathers and mothers about forms of child violence (P value 0.000). A person's knowledge can be measured by the person's ability to express what is known in the form of answers both orally and in writing, these answers are stimulus reactions in the form of questions submitted both orally and in writing. So the wider the person's knowledge, the more aware and open to access information that can be obtained easily. Better parental knowledge encourages the perception of fathers and mothers as the people closest to the child to perceive forms of child violence in accordance with the definition provided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

From table 3 it can be seen that the economic level has a significant relationship with the perceptions of fathers and mothers about forms of child violence (P Value <0.007). Family income is one tool to determine the family economy. Factors of poverty and lack of opportunity to get an education push children to work. Many poor families in remote areas are unable to meet their economic needs and depend on their children for additional income. Apart from that, the economic crisis in 1997-1998 also resulted in an increase in the number of child laborers in urban areas, including in the informal sector which has no rule of law. Education costs, such as school fees and building fees (to pay for maintenance, school facilities), uniforms, books and transportation, are an additional burden for poor families.

This research found that economic factors were related to parents' perceptions of child abuse, but Lindo et al (2013) found a contradiction in this regard. This research has not found evidence that economic downturns increase abuse, despite their impacts on family income. According to this study, economic factors cannot stand alone causing violence against children. There are other factors that must occur together, such as family structure, such as blood relations or unmarried couples, and parents who have lost their jobs (Lindo et al., 2013).

CONCLUSION

There is a significant relationship between the perceptions of fathers and mothers about forms of child violence in accordance with the convention on the rights of the child with knowledge and economic variables, this is a strong incentive for health workers to conduct education to strengthen the capacity of parents' knowledge about child violence and its forms to prevent fathers and mother as the person closest to the child to carry out various forms of violence. The existence of economic factors that also influence it becomes a driving

force for health workers to carry out advocacy across sectors to strengthen the family economy in the context of preventing child violence.

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