

PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

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ABSTRACT

The next generation of the nation is made up of children who have dreams and aspirations for the future and the progress and sustainability of Indonesia's development. Therefore, children need to be protected by parents, families, communities, and the government. The increasing cases of violence against children in recent years have raised concerns for parents, communities, academics, and practitioners. This is feared to have a negative impact on the future of children and also on the nation. One factor is the environmental situation. It is important for every parent, educator, and community to conduct socialization about violence against children. This needs to be done so that children can understand the importance of this problem, especially in the digital era that continues to develop today. This is also effective in preparing children to go through puberty. Indonesia has had the Child Protection Law and various other regulations related to child protection issues, which normatively provide protection for children to guarantee respect for their rights. Every year, the number of cases of violence against children in Indonesia continues to increase, especially in Central Lombok Regency, which has experienced a fairly worrying increase. The methods used in this community service activity include observation and social interaction with partners. Therefore, it is important to carry out this service by conducting counseling at SDN 2 Mujur, East Praya, Central Lombok. Together with partners, we organize a series of socialization activities to optimize efforts to prevent violence against children in the school environment. The main objective of this activity is so that the community, especially the next generation of the nation, can understand the consequences of violence against children. The impact of this socialization process is that students can gain knowledge and understanding of regulations and efforts to prevent violence against children.

Keywords: Prevention Of Violence; Protection; Children.

INTRODUCTION

Children are the most valuable assets for parents and also for the country because they are the next generation of the nation's ideals and hopes. In the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, Article 28B paragraph (2) firmly states that every child has the right to optimal survival, growth, and development, as well as protection from all forms of violence and discrimination. The Indonesian government has demonstrated its global commitment by ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which requires the protection, respect, and fulfillment of children's basic rights. Violence against children includes various forms, such as physical, psychological, sexual, neglect, and exploitation. Children who are victims of violence often experience more than one type of violence, which can have serious impacts on their health, life, dignity, and development. Research shows that violence against children is often perpetrated by people closest to them, both peers and adults they know. It is important to ensure that children receive adequate protection from all forms of violence.

The community, government, and related institutions have an important role in providing assistance, support, and protection to children who are victims of violence. Existing laws, such as the Child Protection Law, explicitly identify and define five forms of violence against children, providing a strong legal basis for the protection and enforcement of children's rights. A safe and supportive education is the right of every child, but violence can prevent them from achieving their academic potential and threaten the continuation of their education. Therefore, preventing violence against children and handling cases appropriately are essential to creating an environment where children can grow and develop safely and optimally. Violence against children is, in principle, caused by various complex factors that need to be understood in depth. First, internal factors include violence that occurs within the family environment. Economic conditions and family harmony play a crucial role in determining children's safety, as these factors can lead to parents' neglect of their children's development and safety. As a result, children may seek protection outside the home, increasing their risk of becoming victims or even perpetrators of violence.

On the other hand, external factors also have a significant influence. These include unsafe environmental conditions, high crime rates, and the impact of social media, which often reinforces the image of violence. In addition to these factors, there are also other contributing factors, such as the inheritance of violence from generation to generation, difficulty in publicly expressing violence, a lack of effective social control, and the individual characteristics of the child itself. Regardless of the various factors that cause violence against children, sexual violence against minors is still a serious problem in West Nusa Tenggara. Recently, several shocking cases have been revealed by the police, adding to the long list of victims, which recorded 188 children as of October 2022.

According to the Head of Sub-Directorate IV, the latest data as of October 2022 shows that there were 188 cases of sexual violence against children. Of that number, 132 children were victims of sexual intercourse, and 56 children

experienced indecent acts. He added that the general pattern in these cases is that victims over 14 years old are often targeted through dating approaches, while victims under 14 years old are often lured with promises of food or money. Legally, perpetrators of sexual violence against children can be sentenced to a minimum of 7 years in prison, but the final decision is in the hands of the prosecutor's office. Cases often only reach the indictment stage, with the indictment articles imposing sentences ranging from 7 to 15 years for cases of sexual intercourse or molestation. Based on data from the Women and Children Protection Unit (PPA) of the NTB Regional Police, in 2021 there were 188 cases of sexual violence against children, with 125 cases of sexual intercourse and 63 cases of molestation.

The data also shows that there were 21 cases where children were suspected of being perpetrators of sexual violence, including 15 cases of sexual intercourse and 7 cases of molestation. Cases of sexual violence against adult women recorded 19 cases of rape. In 2022, the number of cases of sexual violence against children reached 188, with 132 cases of intercourse and 56 cases of molestation. The data also recorded 31 cases in which children were suspected of being perpetrators of sexual violence, consisting of 22 cases of intercourse and 9 cases of molestation. Cases of sexual violence against adult women recorded 30 cases of rape. "Overall, there was an increase in cases of sexual violence from 2021, which recorded 228 cases, to 249 cases in 2022," he explained. (DP3AP2KB NTB)

Violence against children is a global problem that has severe short-term and long-term impacts on children's development and well-being. Short-term impacts can include physical injury, emotional trauma, and developmental disorders. Long-term impacts can include mental health problems, difficulties in relationships, and decreased academic achievement. Preventing and addressing the impacts of violence against children is a collective responsibility, not only limited to families but also involving the state, institutions, and academics. Comprehensive efforts are needed to prevent and eliminate violence against children, including strengthening social networks around children, fostering children's independence and resilience, and increasing awareness and understanding of this issue through educational campaigns and legal counseling. In addition, it is important to create a safe and supportive environment for children where they feel valued, respected, and protected.

Children in West Nusa Tenggara Province have the right to a safe and supportive environment, just like children around the world. Schools should be a comfortable and safe place for students to learn and develop. However, unfortunately, bullying in schools, both physical and psychological, is still a worrying problem. Bullying can have a negative impact on students' physical and mental health and can hinder their academic achievement. Olié, L., et al. (2023). To overcome this problem, special attention is needed from all stakeholders, including academics. Legal counseling on preventing violence against children in the school environment, such as that carried out at SDN 2 Mujur, Central Lombok Regency, is very important to increase awareness and understanding of this problem. This counseling can help students, teachers, and parents identify signs of bullying, report incidents, and create a safer and more inclusive school environment. In addition, it is important to promote a culture of mutual respect

and tolerance in schools, as well as provide adequate support for students who are victims of bullying.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Central Lombok Regency is located in West Nusa Tenggara Province, which is the location of SDN 2 Mujur in Praya Timur District, where the community service team carried out community service activities. Various factors that cause juvenile delinquency can be divided into internal and external factors that play an important role. Bacchus, L. J., et al. (2024). Internal factors include identity crises and obstacles to self-control, while external factors include lack of attention from parents, minimal understanding of religion, and the influence of the surrounding environment and educational institutions. All of these factors have the potential to influence adolescent behavior and need to be considered in efforts to prevent and overcome juvenile delinquency in the area.

The phenomenon of juvenile delinquency and adult law violations is currently one of the factors contributing to the increasing cases of violence against children. The NTB Women's Empowerment, Child Protection, and Family Planning Service (DP3AP2KB) has revealed that the number of cases of violence against children is still quite high. Data until the end of June 2023 showed that there were 374 victims of child violence in the area. These cases are spread across seven districts or cities, which shows one of the impacts of the lack of information or knowledge about women's rights. Therefore, to overcome this problem, it is important to provide broader education and understanding. Backhaus, S., et al. (2024). starting at the elementary school level as an effective preventive measure. Violence is behavior that is contrary to the law, either in the form of threats or actions that can cause physical or psychological harm to individuals. One form of violence that is often discussed is sexual violence or crimes, which have become a familiar problem. Hartill, M., et al. (2023). Immoral acts are not only unacceptable in the eyes of the law but are also a serious violation of human rights. Sexual violence can happen to anyone, regardless of age, gender, or even in public places where perpetrators can easily carry out their actions.

Sexual harassment is a legal concept that includes harm or damage that can be experienced by individuals from a particular sexual group, either physically or verbally, by individuals from the opposite sex. This shows that understanding sexuality is not only physically detrimental but also emotionally and psychologically detrimental for the victim. Obare, F., et al. (2024). Therefore, it is important to continue to raise awareness and protect individuals from all forms of violence, including sexual violence, in order to create a safe and secure environment for everyone. National protection of children from acts of violence is very important and has been regulated in various legal regulations, both at the national and international levels. At the national level, these regulations are contained in Law No. 23 of 2004 concerning the Elimination of Domestic Violence and Law No. 12 of 2022 concerning Criminal Acts of Sexual Violence. These laws provide a strong legal basis to protect children from all forms of violence that may occur.

Meanwhile, at the international level, efforts to protect children from violence are also regulated in various agreements and declarations. Ligiero, D., et al. (2024). one of which is the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, approved by the United Nations (UN) in 1993. This declaration provides international guidelines and standards that must be adhered to by UN member states in protecting children from violence, including sexual violence and domestic violence. With a clear legal framework both at the national and international levels, it is hoped that efforts to protect children from acts of violence can be more effective and guaranteed. This shows a global commitment to protecting children's rights and preventing violence against them, so that children can grow and develop in a safe and protected environment. Maternowska, M. C., et al. (2024).

IMPLEMENTATION METHOD

Community empowerment is a concept in which communities are given power and authority to manage various aspects of their lives. Cluver, L., et al. (2020). such as politics, economics, education, health, environmental management, and so on. Through community empowerment, organizations and individuals are expected to be able to take control of their lives and have greater control over various aspects of their lives. This empowerment concept is rooted in community values and aims to build a sustainable economy. In addition, community empowerment is also an alternative approach to development that changes the paradigm from a national approach to a more participatory approach, where communities are actively involved in the development process and decision-making that affects their lives. Como, M. R., et al. (2014).

The main goal of empowerment is to create individuals and communities that are holistically independent. The empowerment process includes a series of stages that must be passed carefully, starting from the stage of awareness and behavior formation to conscious and caring behavior, so that individuals feel the need to increase their capacity. Furthermore, the capability transformation stage is needed to increase knowledge and skills insight so that individuals have a broader understanding and basic skills that enable them to play an active role in the development process. In addition, the level of improvement in intellectual ability and skills is also very important in the empowerment process. Through this stage, individuals are expected to be able to develop the initiatives and innovative abilities needed to achieve a higher level of independence. McAlpine, K., et al. (2024).

The role of partners in implementing empowerment programs is also a crucial factor that should not be ignored. The involvement of partners in community service in schools must be carried out with a participatory approach through good coordination, aligning perceptions, and socialization involving teachers and students. Nation, A., et al. (2023). In addition, the strategy used in program empowerment must be based on a thorough SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis, which is then implemented in various activities that have been carefully planned.

Results and Discussion

Community service activities began with the observation, socialization, and education stages at school as the initial steps. The target of this activity was students of Elementary School 2 Mujur. At the observation stage, interviews were conducted with the school to gain a deeper understanding of the problems that often occur in the community. The next stage is the implementation of socialization activities with a focus on the theme of preventing violence against children. The selection of this theme is based on the increase in cases of violence against children, which is a serious concern. Tharp, A. T., et al. (2012). so that preventive measures are needed that involve optimizing the understanding of children in the school environment, including in elementary schools. Through this activity, it is hoped that students can internalize the values they have obtained in their daily lives and have a significant positive impact on the surrounding environment. Puno, A., et al. (2024). This aims to increase awareness of the negative impacts of violence against children and an understanding of the regulations in force in Indonesia regarding this matter. Thus, it is hoped that through this effort, a safer environment and care for the welfare of children in Indonesia will be created.

On this occasion, it was conveyed that there are various factors that cause violence against children, which can be said to be very complex. These factors include legal instruments that have not been able to provide adequate protection to victims, Ritterbusch, A. E., et al. (2023). public services that are still not optimal, economic problems, family dynamics, and the surrounding environment. Child violence has a very broad scope, covering various forms such as physical torture, emotional violence, sexual exposure, neglect or negligence in handling, and commercial exploitation that have a real impact on children as the next generation of the nation. Shinyemba, T. W., et al. (2024). The impact of this violence can have an impact on the health, growth, and development of children as victims, as well as their self-confidence.

Prevention and handling of violence against children requires ongoing, systematic, and integrated efforts. This is needed to achieve a common goal, namely optimal protection for children in Indonesia, considering that children are valuable assets for the nation. This activity has gone well, as seen by the high enthusiasm of the students for actively participating during the implementation of the activity. It is hoped that this activity can increase the understanding of the next generation of the nation regarding the impacts caused by violence against children.

CONCLUSION

In general, students at SDN 2 Mujur still do not fully understand the various types of violence against children and how to prevent them. Through the activities that have been carried out, it has been proven to be very effective in increasing students' knowledge and understanding of violence against children and preventive measures that can be applied in their environment. Various factors that can cause violence against children, such as economic factors, supportive social environments, and low sanctions against perpetrators of violence, have become the main concern in prevention efforts. This condition

ultimately has no deterrent effect on perpetrators of violence. Through this activity, it is hoped that it can help improve students' understanding of the importance of preventing violence against children. With the socialization activities carried out at school, it is hoped that they can provide a better understanding and optimization of efforts to prevent violence against children, both in the school environment and in the community. The enthusiasm shown by the students during the implementation of this activity shows that this effort is very important and relevant. One step that can be taken to overcome violence against children is to increase public understanding through socialization carried out by related government agencies and scientists.

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