



Education on the Impact Violence Against Children

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Abstract

Introduction: Violence against children refers to any act that causes suffering and distress, whether physically, mentally, sexually, or psychologically, including actions that degrade the dignity of a child.

Purposes of The Devotion: To raise awareness about the impact of violence against children at Sekolah Menengah Pertama Negeri 7 Ambon.

Method of The Devotion: The method used in the implementation of assistance and educational activities on legal counseling regarding child legal protection at State Junior High School 7 Ambon.

Results Main Findings of the Devotion: Socialization for the students of State Junior High School 7 Ambon: Through this community service activity, we have all learned that violence against children – whether physical, verbal, or emotional, can have very serious impacts on personal development, self-confidence, and the future of the child.

Keywords: Impact; Violence; Child.

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INTRODUCTION

Violence is any physical act, whether intentional or in other forms such as threats or actions, against a person that can cause injury, depression, psychological harm, or even death. Violence against children refers to any act that causes suffering and distress, whether physical, mental, sexual, or psychological, including actions that degrade a child's dignity. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the definition of violence against children includes all forms of maltreatment - physical and/or emotional abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, and exploitation - that result in or have the potential to result in harm to a child's health, development, or dignity, within a relationship of responsibility, trust, or power.

Based on this definition, violence against children can take the form of physical violence, sexual violence, and emotional or psychological violence. Physical violence against children is the most likely to occur. This includes instances when someone uses their body or any object that may harm a child or control their actions. Acts of physical violence may include pushing, pulling hair, kicking, biting, punching, burning, injuring with objects, and other types of physical abuse, including murder.¹ Violence against children can also be viewed from the perspective of child protection. UNICEF defines 'child protection' as deliberate

¹ UNICEF. *Violence Against Children in the Eyes of Indonesian Children: Results of Child Consultations on Violence Against Children in 18 Provinces and at the National Level*. Jakarta: UNICEF, 2005.

actions to prevent and address violence, exploitation, and abuse of children - including commercial sexual exploitation, child trafficking, child labor, and harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation and child marriage. In this context, it is clear that violence against children is reflected in various aspects related to child protection, in line with the definition by UNICEF.

The increasing cases of violence against children are becoming more ironic, especially considering the enactment of the new law revising Law Number 23 of 2002. Despite legal improvements, the number of child violence cases and their media coverage continues to rise. Data gathered by the National Commission for Child Protection and the Indonesian Child Protection Commission shows a growing number of cases involving children. According to National Commission for Child Protection data and reports, between 2010 and 2014 alone, there were 21,689,797 recorded cases of violence across 34 provinces and 179 cities/regencies. Between 42% and 58% of these violations involved sexual crimes against children, while the rest included physical abuse, neglect, abduction, economic exploitation, child trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation, and child custody disputes.

METHOD OF THE DEVOTION

The method used in implementing the assistance and educational outreach on legal counseling regarding child protection at State Junior High School 7 Ambon involved the team delivering an introduction about the understanding of legal protection for children, followed by discussions and a question-and-answer session conducted between the team and the students of State Junior High School 7 Ambon. The students were also given the opportunity to express any complaints related to child legal protection. The team then provided explanations regarding all complaints and questions raised by the students, along with offering appropriate solutions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This community service activity was conducted at State Junior High School 7 Ambon on Thursday, May 15, 2025. The program was entitled "Strategies to Overcome Bullying in Schools." The resource persons for this event consisted of academics from the Faculty of Law, Pattimura University, specifically from the Criminal Law Department. Community service activities are part of the implementation of the Tri Dharma of higher education, beginning with a preparation stage that includes arranging all necessary equipment to ensure the smooth running of the program, such as transportation, event rundown, and snacks for the participants.

Following the preparation, the community service team provided direct education and understanding regarding legal protection for children. In this activity, understanding legal protection for children is crucial to ensure the enforcement of such protection within the school environment. In carrying out the coaching, development, and protection of children, the role of the community is essential. This includes child protection agencies, religious institutions, non-governmental organizations, community organizations, social organizations, businesses, mass media, and educational institutions. Non-formal education or legal communication aimed at the community is necessary. Such non-formal education or legal communication is carried out through socialization (dissemination) and counseling

about legal protection for children. Examples of this counseling include discussions, question-and-answer sessions, and training.



Picture 1: Process of Discussion

There are several factors that contribute to the occurrence of violence against children, namely the child's personal characteristics, the characteristics of the perpetrator, the physical environment, and cultural factors. Nugroho's research, as cited by Purnianti, shows that triggers for violence against children include parents who are accustomed to experiencing violence since childhood (thus tending to imitate the parenting patterns they received), marital relationship problems, parents' inability to control their emotions, lack of understanding of child development aspects, insufficient social support, children with physical disabilities, unwanted children (pregnancies outside of marriage), and births that almost caused the mother's death, leading to the belief that the child is a bearer of bad luck.²

Similarly, Manalu stated that violence against children is caused by factors related to the parents and factors from the children themselves (which are considered by the parents as reasons for committing violence). Parental factors include: lack of understanding about child development, parenting styles, and educating children; parents (for example, fathers) abusing drugs and alcohol which ultimately leads to acts of violence; unwanted children (pregnancies outside of marriage); disharmonious parental relationships; and low economic status.

Meanwhile, factors from the children include: the child's behavior due to chronic illness (such as chronic gastritis), for example, throwing tantrums when late to be fed; not fulfilling parents' wishes, such as helping with selling goods, helping with household chores, and so on. In addition to the factors described above, another cause of violence is that social violence is accepted within the community. In the social realm, children are indeed very vulnerable to various acts of violence because they are considered a weak group. Furthermore, due to their young age and helplessness, children easily become targets of violence, exploitation, abuse, discrimination, and other forms of maltreatment.³

² Purnianti (Ed.). *The Meaning and Scope of Child Protection Issues*. Jakarta: Department of Criminology, FISIP-UI and Center for Justice Services and Legal Community Service, University of Indonesia, 1999, p. 41.

³ Sonniaty Natalya Manalu, Thesis, 2006. *Physical, Psychological, and Social Impacts on Children Who Experience Child Abuse (A Case Study of Two Children Who Experienced Child Abuse After Being Assisted by the Sahabat Peduli Foundation)*. Graduate Program in Social Welfare Science, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, University of Indonesia, p. 150-155.



Picture 2: QnA

One of the students of State Junior High School 7 Ambon stated that children are legal subjects who need protection from the state. In this case, the students of State Junior High School 7 Ambon feel they lack knowledge about the law, especially legal protection for children, which results in children not having the ability to participate in exercising the legal protections that are their rights. Based on this concern, the student then asked a question about how the implementation of legal protection for children is carried out within the school environment. In response, Iqbal Taufik, a member of the community service team and the material presenter, kindly answered the question posed by the student.

Therefore, legal protection that needs to be implemented in the school environment includes protection of children from acts of torture or other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment. Schools need to conduct systematic training on children's human rights and incorporate children's rights into the educational curriculum. Additionally, schools should establish partnerships among communities, religious organizations, corporations—including the media—and government authorities to protect children. Furthermore, it is necessary to increase the capacity of children to actively participate in efforts to protect their legal rights by fostering a better understanding of legal protection for children.

CONCLUSION

Socialization for the students of State Junior High School 7 Ambon: Through this community service activity, we have all learned that violence against children—whether physical, verbal, or emotional—can have very serious impacts on personal development, self-confidence, and the future. Violence not only causes physical pain but can also leave emotional scars that are difficult to heal. Children who experience violence often feel fear, insecurity, lack of confidence, and may even lose the motivation to learn and socialize. Therefore, it is important for you to be brave and speak up if you experience or witness violence, whether at home, school, or in your surroundings. Report it to a teacher, parent, or someone you trust. Be someone who respects others, does not bully, and helps create a safe and caring school environment. We all have a role to play in preventing violence and building a child-friendly school. Let's take care of ourselves and our friends together because every child has the right to grow up happy, safe, and full of hope.

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