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The Impact of Family Physical Violence on the Social-Emotional Development of Children in PAUD KB Al-Fatih, Depok City, West Java

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ABSTRAK:

Physical violence in the family has a significant impact on a child's socialemotional development. This study aims to investigate the effects of family physical violence on the social-emotional development of children at PAUD AlFatih, Depok. The research uses a qualitative case study approach, with data collection methods including interviews, observations, and documentation. The subjects are children enrolled in the KB unit of PAUD Al-Fatih Depok, their parents, and teachers. The findings indicate that both physical and verbal violence against children in families remains a serious problem at PAUD KB Al-Fatih in Depok. Contributing factors include parenting patterns inherited from previous generations, family conflicts, and economic conditions. Physical violence negatively impacts children's physical health and psychological well-being, hindering their social-emotional development. PAUD teachers play a crucial role in supporting children who experience family violence by creating a comfortable classroom environment, offering motivation, and facilitating group activities. Parents should receive education and training on more positive and effective child-rearing approaches to prevent both physical and verbal violence. Such interventions are expected to reduce the incidence of family violence and support affected children in achieving a better future.

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1. Introduction

A family is a unit tied by blood relations, typically consisting of a husband, wife, and children. It represents the smallest social unit with a vital role in character building for the nation. Families generally live together, cooperate economically, and follow socially defined roles (Ramdani, 2023:12). Becoming a parent is a special joy for adults who have married. According to Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis theory, a child's personality development is influenced by what they experience during their ―golden age‖ (ages 0–6). If children receive proper education and nurture during this period, they are likely to develop sound personalities in adulthood (Wiguna & Tridiyawati, 2022:2411).

The increase in child abuse cases in Jabodetabek and nationally has also been observed in Depok. The UPTD PPA (Regional Technical Implementation Unit for Women and Child Protection) reported increasing incidents from 96 cases in 2017, 101 in 2018, 88 in 2019, 121 in 2020, to 134 in 2021 (Azzahra, 2023:80). According to Law No. 23 of 2022 on Child Protection, a child is anyone under 18 years old, including those in the womb. Article 4 states that every child has the right to live, grow, develop, and be protected from violence and discrimination (Roudah & Zubaedah, 2024:75). Violence against children can happen anywhere—including at home, school, or in public—and can be deeply traumatic. Thus, child abuse requires serious attention due to its long-term negative effects (Feronica, 2024:79).

The effects of such violence include impaired social-emotional development, difficulties managing emotions, confusion about others' emotional reactions, and negative self-views—often manifesting in low self-esteem and limited social interactions (Ariani, 2022:73). Parents and family play a key role in shaping a child's social-emotional development. Positive emotional support from parents fosters early emotional competence, better school readiness, and reduced behavioral problems (Yenti, 2021:9816). Initial observations at PAUD KB Al-Fatih in Depok revealed parents using physical discipline—pinching, hitting, and pushing—to control their children, believing such methods are effective and harmless. However, they often overlook the emotional and psychological harm inflicted. Additionally, parental

awareness of the adverse effects of violence remains low, due to limited knowledge, traditional discipline practices, and fear that gentle parenting might lead to disobedience.

2. Methodology

This qualitative case study aims to provide a deep understanding of how family physical violence affects children's social-emotional development at PAUD KB Al-Fatih, Depok. Data were collected via interviews with child victims, their parents, and teachers. Observations focused on children experiencing family violence, and documentation involved anecdotal records of emotional development and family conflict.

3. Result And Discussion

The results of interviews conducted by researchers with parents of preschool students at KB Al-Fatih in Depok, West Java, Indonesia, indicate that physical violence in the family can have a negative impact on children's socioemotional development. The following are some key findings from the research:

a. Experiences of Physical Violence: 3 out of 5 parents had used physical violence against their children, such as pinching and hitting, when feeling angry and upset. The other 2 parents had never used physical violence, but they vented their emotions by scolding their children.

b. Regret: All parents expressed regret and sadness after using physical violence against their children.

c. Handling Frustration: Parents handle frustration by calming themselves down, such as going outside, spending time with friends, lying down in their room, avoiding their child, or praying.

d. Past Experiences of Physical Violence: 2 parents had experienced physical violence during their childhood, inflicted by their own fathers.

e. Perception of Physical Violence: 3 parents considered physical violence against children acceptable in certain situations, such as pinching and hitting, arguing that it would make the child well-behaved and obedient. The other 2 parents did not condone physical violence because it could cause trauma to the child.

This research shows that physical violence in the family can have a negative impact on children's socio-emotional development. Therefore, comprehensive prevention and handling efforts are needed to address the issue of physical violence in the family and help children who experience it. In addition to the above, the research also found that family violence can be caused by several factors, including:

a. Anger and Frustration: 3 parents stated that the main cause of family violence was anger and frustration towards their children and frustration due to family conflicts.

b. Economic Problems and Past Experiences: 1 parent believed that the cause of family violence was economic problems and past experiences of violence.

c. Lack of Approach: 1 parent believed that the cause of family violence was a lack of approach between parents and children.

d. Stress and Pressure: 1 parent had experienced prolonged stress due to household problems with her husband and in-laws.

e. Poor Harmonious Relationship: 1 parent had a poor harmonious relationship with their partner and other family members, which caused unresolved conflicts at home.

f. Lack of Parenting Knowledge: None had received parenting education regarding violence against children.

g. Communication with Children: 4 parents frequently communicated and talked with their children about their daily activities; only 1 parent stated that they did not talk to their child very often.

h. Environment: 2 respondents had witnessed family violence committed by their neighbors, with differing opinions on the violence itself.

This research shows that family violence can be caused by several factors, both internal and external. Therefore, comprehensive prevention and handling efforts are needed to address the issue of family violence and help children who experience it. In addition to interviewing parents, interviews were also conducted with teachers, and this research shows that preschool teachers have an important role in helping children who experience physical violence in the family. The following are some key findings from the research:

a. Teacher's Role: Preschool teachers can help children who experience physical violence in the family by providing motivation, encouragement, and a sense of security at school. Teachers can be a second parent at school, making children feel comfortable and safe.
b. Strategies for Developing Socio-Emotional Skills: Teachers can help children develop healthy socio-emotional skills by assigning group work, creating a comfortable classroom atmosphere, and supervising children during playtime.
c. Cooperation with Parents: Teachers can cooperate with parents or caregivers to help children who experience physical violence in the family by conducting home visits, explaining the impact of violence, and providing guidance on good parenting.
d. Impact of Physical Violence: Physical violence in the family can have a negative impact on children's socio-emotional development, such as changes in attitude, becoming fearful, and unwillingness to play with friends.
e. Good Parenting: Teachers can help reduce the impact of physical violence in the family by providing parenting education on good parenting, such as instilling affection, taking children on outings, and using the services of experienced and professional caregivers.

This research shows that preschool teachers have an important role in helping children who experience physical violence in the family. Therefore, comprehensive prevention and handling efforts are needed to address the issue of physical violence in the family and help children who experience it. The results of interviews conducted with children show that children who experience physical violence in the family have diverse feelings and experiences. The following are some key findings from the research:

a. Feelings of Pain and Sadness: All children felt pain and sadness when experiencing physical violence in the family.
b. Feeling Safe and Comfortable at Home: All children felt safe and comfortable at home, even though some of them experienced physical violence.
c. Lack of Trusted Person: 1 child did not have a friend or trusted person to talk to about their feelings.
d. Ways to Calm Down: Children calmed themselves down when sad or angry by playing and wanting to be hugged by their parents.
e. Experience of Violence: All children had never witnessed violence at home, although some had experienced physical violence themselves.
f. Parents' Reaction When Children Make Mistakes: Parents would get angry when their children made mistakes, and some would hit or pinch their children.
g. Aggressive Behavior: 2 children liked to hit their friends when angry.
h. Enjoyment of Playing and Going to School: All children enjoyed playing with their friends and going to school.

This research shows that children who experience physical violence in the family have diverse feelings and experiences, and some of them exhibit aggressive behavior and have difficulty developing socio-emotional skills. Therefore, comprehensive prevention and handling efforts are needed to address the issue of physical violence in the family and help children who experience it. Based on observations conducted by the researcher, there are several signs of violence experienced by the children. The following are some key findings from the observation:

a. Physical Violence: No scars or injuries were found on the children, but 2 children exhibited aggressive behavior.
b. Emotional Violence: 1 child frequently insulted their friends, but no neglect was observed.
c. Psychological Violence: No threats or coercion were observed, but 2 children lacked self-confidence.
d. Children's Behavior: 2 children exhibited aggressive behavior, 1 child experienced difficulty concentrating, and no children were fearful or experienced behavioral changes.
e. Signs of Violence: The observation results show that the children did not experience severe physical violence, but there are signs of emotional and psychological violence that need attention.

This observation shows that violence can have diverse impacts on children, and comprehensive prevention and handling efforts are needed to address the issue of violence and help children who experience it

4. Conclusion

The discussion above reveals that physical and verbal violence against children within families remains a serious problem. Several types of violence against children occur, including physical violence such as pinching and hitting, and verbal violence such as scolding and yelling. The contributing factors to violence against children in the family include both external factors—such as economic factors and family conflicts—and internal factors—such as parenting styles or past experiences of violence in childhood, where parents consider violence a normal way to discipline children.

The impact of physical violence on children's socio-emotional development can have detrimental effects on their physical and mental health. Children may struggle to control their emotions, exhibit aggressive behavior, lack empathy, have low self-esteem, and experience difficulty concentrating during learning. Preschool teachers can play a vital role in helping children experiencing physical violence at home by creating a comfortable classroom environment, providing motivation, and assigning group work. Parents need education and training on more positive and effective ways of dealing with children to prevent physical and verbal violence. Therefore, comprehensive prevention and intervention efforts are needed to address the issue of violence against children within families, including education and training for both parents and preschool teachers.

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