



The Psychological Impact of Handling Case of Sex Violence in Children

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Abstract

Sexual violence is a new event caused by the rapid flow of globalization. Sexual violence actually happens to children. Children who are supposed to be the next generation of the nation, whose rights are protected and protected by law, actually become victims of sexual violence. The data shows, victims of sexual violence against children show an increase every year. This has a big impact on the development of children. The method used in this research is by way of literature study and qualitative descriptive analysis. Based on the results of the research, the researcher found the factors causing the crime of sexual violence, namely internal factors and external factors. In addition, the psychological impact arising from sexual violence is also very large, namely traumatic feelings to PTSD, psychological illness with fear disturbances to an extreme sense of helplessness. The psychological impact arising from sexual violence must be immediately detected and given appropriate treatment so as not to interfere with the child's development process in the future.

Keywords: *Psychology; Sexual Violence; Children*

Introduction

Children are a mandate as well as a gift from God Almighty whose rights must be maintained and protected. Children are born into this world not without reason, but children are the forerunners of the next generation who will determine the fate of a nation in the future. Children have talents and potentials that must be developed according to their wishes without coercion or threats from other parties. The development process must have good supervision from the family, community to the government.

Families have a big enough role to be able to supervise children in their growth and development period. This role should be known by the family so that it does not necessarily give freedom to children. Likewise, with the community who have a role directly or indirectly in the process of supervising children so that deviations or other unwanted things do not occur. The government also has a stake in guaranteeing

children's rights in the form of survival, growth and development, as well as guarantees from violence and threats as stated in the 1945 Constitution. (Kayowuan Lewoleba and Helmi Fahrozi 2020).

The flow of globalization is increasing rapidly, bringing positive and negative impacts on children. One of the negative impacts caused is the emergence of a new phenomenon, namely sexual violence. Sexual violence is any action that causes trauma to children, such as forcing or pressuring children to engage in sexual activity, showing pornographic videos to children, and asking children to have sex. Sexual violence has a very large impact on children and is a threat from time to time to disturb the comfort, peace and security of society.

Crime in the form of sexual violence really threatens the future of children because of the impact it causes. Not only the physical impact, the psychological impact can also disrupt the safety of children. Children who should be able to grow and develop normally and be able to achieve their goals in peace, eventually have to endure prolonged trauma due to crimes of sexual violence they have experienced. The government in this case made a big contribution through the regulations made, that are Constitution number 35, 2004 Chapter 1 (1) which states that what is meant by a child is someone who is not yet 18 years old, including children who are still in the womb. Children are the potential of the younger generation to continue the ideals of the nation who have special roles, characteristics, and characteristics that must be protected from all forms of inhumane treatment that can lead to violations of human rights in children. (Suryani 2021).

Sexual violence against children has become a phenomenon that must be watched out for, given the data on violence against children cited in National Commission for Women press release on the Commemoration of the International Campaign Day against Violence against Women (November 25th – December 10th 2022), which stated that the existence of the Law on Violence Sexuality is suspected to contribute to the courage and confidence of victims to report their cases. The National Commission for Women's annual records for the period 2012 – 2021 (10 years) show at least 49,762 reports of cases of sexual violence. National Commission for Women's from January to November 2022 has received 3,014 cases of gender-based violence against women, including 860 cases of sexual violence in the public/community sphere and 899 cases in the private sphere. The number of complaints will continue to grow, including to service providers managed by civil society and the UPTD P2TP2A (Integrated Service Center for the Empowerment of Women and Children). ('Komnas Perempuan' [n.d.]).

Research Method

The type of research conducted by researchers is research by analyzing problems which is carried out by means of literature studies on legal materials which are secondary data related to legal protection of children who are victims of sexual violence. Researchers use the Juridical-Analytical approach method (Sonata 2015), namely compiling, processing, and discussing the results of fact data obtained from the results of the study, which will then be drawn analytical identification at the last part.

Result and Discussion

1. Factors in the Occurrence of Acts of Sexual Violence Against Children

Sexual violence against children does not just happen, however; there are triggering factors why sexual violence against children can occur and become a threat that must be followed up immediately. These factors include internal factors and external factors.

- a. Internal Factor. Internal factors can occur due to problems that exist in the child itself; namely, the child is too innocent, has a weak temperament, and is too dependent on adults.
- b. External factors. External factors can occur by several factors including poor families and many children, single families/broken homes, families that are psychologically immature due to ignorance in educating children, unwanted or pregnant children out of wedlock, severe illness or mental disorders that occur in parents so that they cannot take care of children to the fullest, the educational history of parents who have been mistreated by both parents in the past, and the conditions of the social environment are bad, so that there is no stable social control. These external factors can also be the reasons for sexual violence, many of which are not revealed, so that victims of sexual violence can become perpetrators in the future. (Siburian and Maendrofa 2021).

2. The Psychological Impact That Occurs in Cases of Sexual Violence Against Children

Sexual violence against children has a big impact on the victim, which results in death, injuries, and disfigurement of the body. In addition, one of the impacts arising from sexual violence on children is the psychological impact. These impacts include disruption to their mental health, which results in prolonged trauma; other mental disorders which are definitely very detrimental to mental health and the process of child development. (Karomah 2019). Sexual violence also has a lasting impact on children due to the deep trauma they experience. So that the child's brain will experience obstacles in the process of development. (Yusyanti 2020).

Another psychological impact that can arise from sexual violence is a symptom, *Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder* (PTSD). PTSD can be interpreted as one or several events that cause traumatic experiences, whether experienced directly or just by seeing. These events can be in the form of death, death threats, threats to a person's physical integrity, to serious injuries as a result of a certain event. The events experienced must have caused terror, fear, and an extreme sense of helplessness. Symptoms of PTSD itself can be detected by the main categories, namely returning to past traumatic events, avoidance, and symptoms of self-tension. PTSD itself, can be treated if it is detected and treated appropriately. However, if it is not detected and treated promptly, PTSD can cause serious and permanent medical complications and psychological impacts which can eventually disrupt the social life of the child in the future. (Azka Rusyda and others 2021).

Conclusion

Children are a mandate and a gift from God that should be cared for, protected, and guaranteed. As the next generation of the nation, children should receive guarantees for their rights, especially in terms of security and comfort. A new event that arises and threatens a child's life is sexual violence. Sexual violence is perpetrated by irresponsible persons or even children from past traumatic victims. The factors of sexual violence itself can be divided into 2, namely internal factors and external factors. Internal factors include problems that exist in the child itself, namely a weak temperament, being too innocent, to excessive dependence on parents. The external factors are poor parents, children from broken home families, lack of psychological maturity of parents in educating children, unwanted children or pregnancies out of wedlock, to a lack of social control that makes children's associations free and vulnerable to sexual violence.

Sexual violence against children has a big impact on victims physically and psychologically. Physically, children can experience injuries, disabilities, and even death. While the psychological impact on children is that it can interfere with mental health, inhibit brain development, PTSD with the emergence of fear, terror, and an extreme sense of helplessness. The psychological impact resulting from

sexual violence such as trauma and PTSD itself must be detected immediately and get the right treatment so as not to cause other psychological illnesses that are more severe and do not interfere with the child's social life in the future.

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