



## ASSESSMENT OF CHILD VIOLENCE: PROTECTION POLICIES AND THE IMPACT OF VIOLENCE ON CHILDREN

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### ABSTRACT

Children are children whose position is a valuable treasure for their families, loved, and protected. However, in their development, children also often experience violent behavior, which is not uncommon for the perpetrators to be those closest to the child. In Indonesia, the crisis of child protection is shown by the increasing number of cases child abuse starting in 2019 until now. Various efforts to protect children are carried out globally through various international conventions and nationally with various laws ranging from the Civil Code to local government regulations. The rights and protection of children in Indonesia does not only contain formal law for children aged 0-18 but starts from the womb. However, these efforts have not been able to provide solutions and reduce cases that have occurred so far. This study seeks to describe how the policy on violence against children is and how it impacts on victims by using qualitative methods and literature review as data sources. The results of this study describe various policies that contain the rights and protection of children and the impact of violence on children.

**Keywords:** child abuse, child protection policies, conventions on children's rights, impact child abuse, protection of children's rights

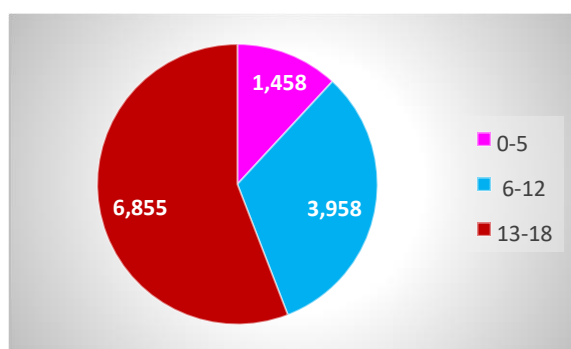
## INTRODUCTION

A child is linguistically defined as a person or human who is under 18 years of age, either male or female. Based on Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection (Republik Indonesia, 2002) and Law Number 35 of amendments to Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection (Republik Indonesia, 2014), the definition of a child in article one is someone who not yet 18 (eighteen) years old, including children who are still in the womb.

Protection of children has a mission not only to ensure the welfare and adequacy of their protection interests, but also to provide formal guarantees for children's physical and mental health. Child protection activities aim to guarantee and protect children's rights so that they can

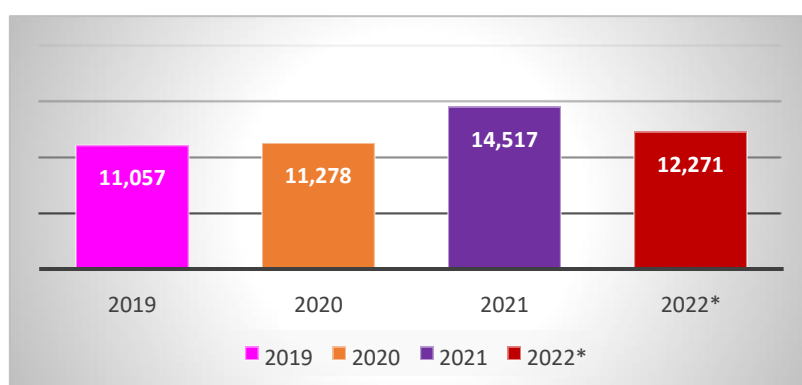
live, grow, develop, and participate optimally in accordance with human dignity, and receive protection from violence and discrimination.

The problem of child protection in Indonesia is in a state of emergency. The Ministry of Women and Children Protection (Komisi Perlindungan Perempuan dan Anak – KPPA) recorded that there were 11,952 cases of child abuse that occurred in 2021 (Ramadhan & Prabowo, 2022). Meanwhile, from January to October 12, 2022, it was recorded in real time on the PPA symphony portal that 19,392 cases of violence occurred with data distribution of 3,134 for men, and 17,758 for women, and based on ages 0-18 there were 12,271 cases (KPPA, 2022).



**Figure 1. Child Abuse Occurred in January-October 2022 (KPPA, 2022)**

The trend of cases of violence against children has shown an increase since the pandemic. Based on the KPPA report, from 2020 to mid-2022 cases of child abuse and women showed a significant increase.



**Figure 2. cases of child abuse in 2019-2021 (KPPA, 2022)**

The trend data above has increased since the 2019 pandemic, and in 2022 data was collected until October 13, 2022.

Violence against children statistically only shows the number and number of cases, qualitatively the impact of violence on children can be very destructive and leave an imprint on the physical and mental health of children. The simplest reason for committing child abuse as reasoning is an effort to discipline children (Muarifah, Wati, & Puspitasari, 2020). Anggraeni's research in 2014 and Margereta and Jaya's research in 2020 concluded that the destructive impact experienced by children as victims of domestic violence is not only physical injury but also a tendency to feel insecure and withdraw from social life (Anggraeni, 2014) which is indicated by motivation or self-esteem, developing aggressive behavior or being angry when outside the home and being quiet at home, often has no appetite, and feels physical pain after receiving violence from his closest family (Margareta & Jaya, 2020). In addition to the problem of physical and social injuries, research by Suteja and Ulum explains that violence against children also slows down psychological development, both affective, cognitive and psychomotor (Suteja & Ulum, 2019).

Protection efforts have actually been carried out by the government of the Republic of Indonesia in the form of regulations and advocacy, but these efforts have not been able to provide solutions and reduce cases that have occurred so far. This study seeks to describe how the policy on child abuse is and how it impacts on victims.

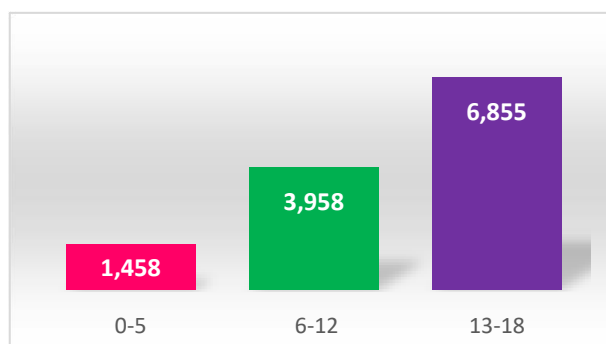
## METHOD

This study uses a literature review method with scientific articles as sources of research results that have been published in the DOAJ journal and Google Scholar. The keywords used to search for the article are “child protection policy”, “child abuse”, “cases of child abuse in Indonesia”, “cases of child abuse during the pandemic”, and “child protection efforts”. Articles appearing on the search page are filtered back using article type filter. Articles that have been collected will be re-selected inclusively based on special criteria and in accordance with the problem formulation that has been offered previously:

1. Statistics on violence against children
2. Policies on violence against children (legal remedies, protection, and advocacy against survivors)
3. The impact of violence on children

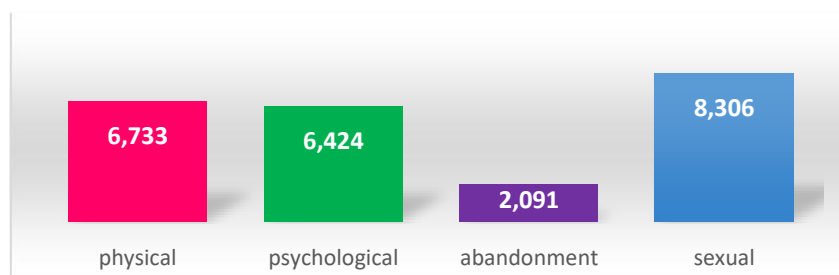
## RESULTS

The statistical results of child abuse do not only focus on the number, but also the age of the victim, the type of violence experienced, the scene, and the perpetrator. Based on data compiled by the Ministry of Women and Children Protection, the total number of cases of child abuse aged 0-18 years is 12,271 cases.



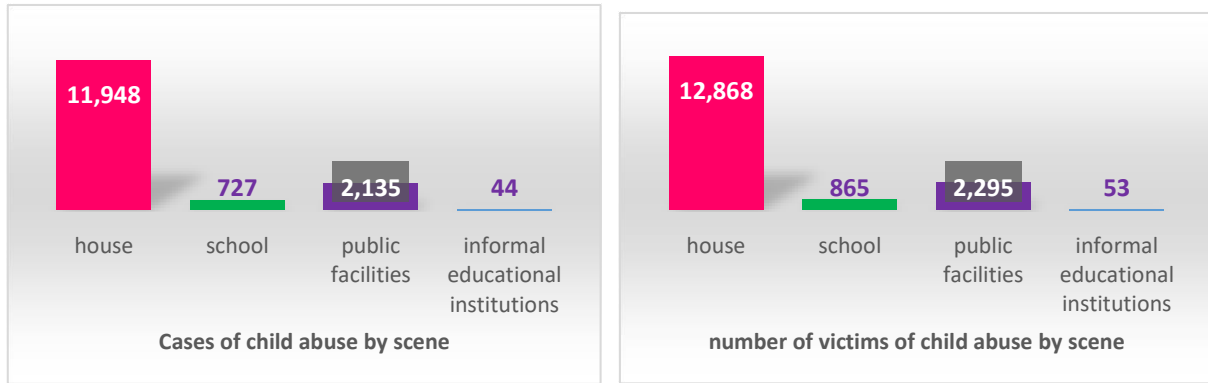
**Figure 3. Child Abuse Occurred in January-October 2022**

The types of violence experienced by children are usually physical, psychological, abandoned and what is now often happening is sexual violence. KPPA's data shows that in 2022, which was collected from January to October 12, 2022, physical violence was 6,733, psychological violence was 6,424, abandoned was 2,091 and sexual violence was 8,306.



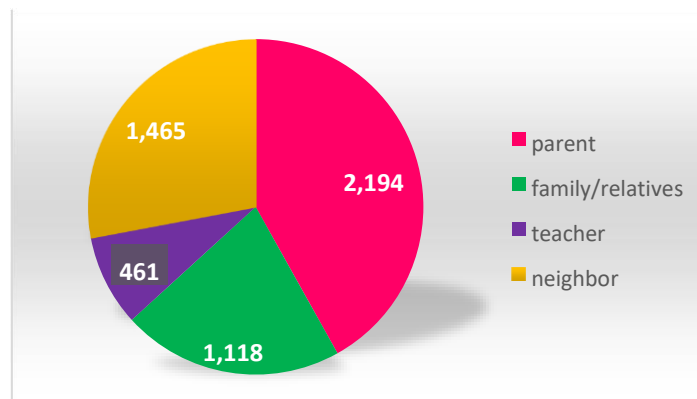
**Figure 4. Types of child abuse**

The case data and the number of incidents based on the scene show that the majority of accidents experienced by children occur at home. This means that a place that should be a place of refuge for children has in fact become a place of violence and is no longer a safe place for children.



**Figure 5. Cases of child abuse by scene and number of victims of child abuse by scene**

Finally, data on perpetrators of child abuse. KPPA's realtime data shows four dominant perpetrators who often commit violence, including parents, neighbors, close family or relatives, and the victim's school teacher. Quantitatively, the majority of perpetrators of violence are the parents of the victims themselves with a total of 2,194, close neighbors 1,465, close relatives or relatives of 1,118, and school teachers with a total of 461. Perpetrators who are the closest people to the victim show the fact that the closest people, especially parents, are unable to provide support. sense of security and protection for children.



**Figure 6. perpetrator of child abuse**

## DISCUSSION

### Policies, Legal Efforts and Child Protection

Formally, laws and regulations related to child protection are written in several pieces of law and legislation. Internationally, several international conventions were carried out to draft global regulations on children including: (1) Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989, this

convention on rights has been ratified by the Government of Indonesia through Presidential Decree of the Republic of Indonesia Number 36 of 1990, (2) ILO Convention Number 182 1999 concerning the Worst Forms of Child Labor This Convention has been ratified by the Government of Indonesia through Law Number 1 of 2000, (3) Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime This protocol, known as the Palermo Protocol, has been ratified through Law Number 14 of 2009.

In Indonesia, formal regulations regarding children have so far been regulated in 8 rules: (1) Civil Law in Article 330 of the Civil Code, (2) Law Number 1 of 1974 concerning Marriage which provides a minimum limit of marriage for women, namely 16 years as the age limit. marriage for women, (3) Law Number 3 of 1997 concerning Juvenile Court, (4) Law Number 39 of 1999 concerning Human Rights, (5) Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection, (6) Law Number 21 of 2007 concerning Eradication of the Crime of Trafficking in Persons, (7) Law Number 44 of 2008 concerning Pornography, (8) Law Number 11 of 2012 concerning the Juvenile Criminal Justice System.

The national scope of the Republic of Indonesia, Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection (Republik Indonesia, 2002) and Law Number 35 of amendments to Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection (Republik Indonesia, 2014), the definition of children in article One person is someone who is not yet 18 (eighteen) years old, including a child who is still in the womb.

The rights of children in The United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) are described as ethical principles and international standards for dealing with children. UNCRC defines that children – a human group with a range of ages 0 to 18 years – must be nurtured to be able to grow, learn, play and develop in accordance with human dignity and protection from threats (UNCRC, 1989). In this context, the state as a policy maker and provider of institutions is obliged to respect and promote all children's rights, and also to protect all children from all forms of discrimination, violence and exploitation. States should take the necessary legislative and administrative steps to ensure that all children are protected, and that the interests of the child are the primary consideration in all decisions or actions taken (UNICEF, 2019).

Then the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have the principle that nothing should be left behind. Children are one of the most vulnerable groups worldwide, so their development

is an integral part of efforts to achieve the SDGs (United Nation, 2017). Two important points in the SDGs that become the main focus are (1) Eliminating all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spaces, including human trafficking and sexual exploitation, as well as various other types of exploitation. Targets, and (2) Ending harassment, exploitation, trafficking in persons and all forms of violence and abuse against children.

Violence and exploitation of children continues to have a significant impact on health and well-being, and has the potential to have a long-term negative impact on children's physical and mental health. The forms of violence and exploitation vary widely, but issues such as physical, mental and sexual abuse continue to occur; while bullying and verbal oppression are experienced by teenagers throughout Indonesia. These experiences are often amplified through widespread online interactions. Apart from having a direct negative impact on children's wellbeing, violence and exploitation can also hamper overall national growth and development.

### **Impact of Violence on Children**

In the previous section it was understood that child abuse can occur in various forms, ranging from abandoned or abandoned of children, verbal violence, psychological violence, physical violence, sexual violence, to exploitation and sale of children. The impact that arises as a result of child abuse depends on the type of violence experienced. Generally, children as victims of violence will experience physical, psychological, social, and death impacts.

The impact of violence on children can be seen from the changes in their lives. Physically, children who have experienced violence experience several health problems such as asthma, diabetes, coronary heart disease, stroke, panic attacks, and depression (Ariani, Wulandari, & Suyanto, 2021). Violence & Abandonment in Children in addition to health problems, victims can experience decreased brain function (Mardiyati, 2015). The implication is that victims have difficulty focusing and learning new things (Fahrullah, 2018). In the long term, this condition can cause the child's academic achievement to decline (Sakalasastra, 2012). Not only that, several studies have also shown that traumatic experiences (Sumartiningsih & Prasetyo, 2019), including violence against children, can increase the risk of developing dementia in old age (Yuliawati, 2013).

The social life of children as victims of violence generally shows that children become quiet (Aryani, Nafisah, & Rizqi, 2021), trying to be good so that there is no reason for the perpetrator to commit physical violence. Some cases of victims showing aggressive behavior

by showing behavioral responses that are antithetical to the norm. This aggressive behavior as a form of defense and protection of children from the violence they experience and as "social learning" shown by adults and placing the value of the behavior they encounter (adults) is a model that aggression and violence are ways to face the world (Mulyana & Krisnani, 2016).

The psychological impact of violence experienced by children is that there will be an attempt to blame themselves for the violence. Children make rationalizations that violent behavior by adults is a necessary response to "bad children" (Wibhawa & Mulyana, 2017). This causes many children who experience violence to have a bad self-concept and lack confidence in their abilities. Physical abuse will cause developmental delays. This is because children will spend their attention and energy to deal with the situations they face (Zastrow & Ashman, 2007).

In addition, the form of child abandoned can cause children to be injured psychologically, physically and in development, and can even lead to death. Children who experience abandoned, as adults tend to become distrustful of others, have low self-esteem, have problems with anger and are socially awkward and isolated (Peter, 2004). Victims of sexual violence have a deep psychological trauma due to betrayal (Zahirah, Nurwati, & Krisnani, 2019) or loss of children's trust in adults (betrayal), traumatic sexualization, and stigmatization obtained from the social environment (Noviana, 2015).

## CONCLUSION

Children are formally understood as human beings with an age range of 0-18 years. Formally, laws and regulations related to child protection are written in several pieces of law and legislation. Internationally there are three main conventions that regulate the rights and protection of children including the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989, ILO Convention Number 182 of 1999 concerning the Worst Forms of Child Labor, Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime. In Indonesia, formal regulations regarding children are so far regulated in 8 rules and the most commonly used are Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection (Republic of Indonesia, 2002) and Law Number 35 of amendments to Law Number 23 of 2002 on Child Protection.

The impact that arises as a result of child abuse depends on the type of violence experienced. Generally, children as victims of violence will experience physical, psychological,



social, and death impacts. Physically, children who have experienced violence experience several health problems such as asthma, diabetes, coronary heart disease, stroke, panic attacks, and depression. The social life of children as victims of violence generally shows children to be quiet, aggressive behavior, and have a bad self-concept and lack of confidence.

### **ABBREVIATIONS**

DOAJ: Directory of Open Access Journals; ILO: The International Labour Organization; KPPA: Kementerian Perlindungan Perempuan dan Anak; KUHPPerdata: Kitab Undang-Undang Hukum Perdata; UN: United Nations; UNCRC: The United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child; UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund; SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals.

### **COMPETING INTEREST**

Authors declare that we have no known competing financial interest or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

### **AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTION**

Corresponding author conceptualized, designed, prepared the initial draft and framework also interpreted the data. The second author interprets the data and also making sure that the research stays on the track and based on the data that have been collected.

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