

Parents' Perception on Verbal Abuse to Early Childhood: A Case Study

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Abstract: Violence against early childhood is still an interesting issue to study, especially verbal violence that often occurs in daily life. Verbal violence has an equally terrible impact on mental and character development in early childhood. The purpose of this study was to determine the perceptions of parents about verbal violence committed to early childhood. This study uses a qualitative approach with a focus on phenomenological studies. The population and sample in this study are parents who have children aged 3-6 years located in Sidoarjo City, participants in this study amounted to 4 people. The data collection process was carried out using in-depth interview techniques to the research participants. 50% of study participants stated that verbal violence is an expression of words that should not be spoken. All participants know and understand this is a form of verbal violence, but this still continues to happen, and research participants assume verbal abuse on children has an impact that is no more severe than physical violence.

Keywords: verbal abuse, perception, early childhood

I. INTRODUCTION

Child abuse in Indonesia is increasing every year. In 2007 it was reported that 1,510 children experienced violence, in 2008 there were 1826, in 2009 there were 1998, and in 2010 there was an increase of 2044 cases of violence against children in Indonesia. In 2011 it was reported from January to April, the number of victims of child abuse had reached 435 people.

Violence is a deliberate act that results in physical injury or mental stress [1]. Child abuse is "any act that is harmful / can harm the health and well-being of the child carried out by the person who is responsible for the health and well-being of the child" [2].

Terry E. Lawson, a child psychiatrist divides child abuse into 4 (four) types, namely emotional abuse, verbal abuse, physical abuse and sexual abuse. Verbal abuse occurs when a mother, knowing her child is asking for attention, tells the child to "shut up" or "don't cry". The child starts talking and the mother continues to use verbal violence such as, "you are stupid", "you are fussy", "you are insolent", and so on [3].

The thing that most often causes parents to commit violence, especially verbal abuse, is juvenile delinquency. Especially when children enter the age of 3 years, this age is a period of brain formation and behavior of children. At this time children are considered to be very critical for emotional and psychological development. The development of the superego occurred during this period and awareness began to emerge. Delinquency of children at the age of 3 to 6 years is a natural thing,

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in that way children learn the environment creatively, but sometimes parents see it as a disturbing thing, and parents are not reluctant to commit verbal violence such as shouting and ignoring children [4].

Initial survey conducted by researchers there were 1,527 families (KK) in the Gempol District, Pasuruan Regency. More than 500 of its citizens are college / academy graduates, and 10 of them admit to having committed acts of violence on their children. 5 people said that they had physically abused their children but did not know that verbal acts could be violent behavior, the rest said they had never done physical violence but had done verbal violence. This has led to the interest of researchers to find out how parents' perceptions about violence, especially verbal abuse in children in Gempol District, Pasuruan Regency after conducting interviews with several local residents.

II. METHOD

This type of research was a qualitative method, which is an approach or search to explore and understand a phenomenon. This phenomenon is examined by interviewing research participants or participants through general and rather broad questions. Information submitted by participants is then collected. The instrument in this study was the researcher himself. Supporting tools used are notebooks, pens, cellphones and a list of questions.

Researchers interviewed participants for about 30 minutes about participants' perceptions of verbal abuse perpetrated in children. Researchers interviewed participants using interview guidelines that had been made previously, so that interviews conducted could be focused and patterned. The population in this study were all parents who have children aged 3 to 6 years who live in the District of Gempol, Pasuruan Regency.

The technique used to determine the sample in the population is purposive sampling, which is a sampling technique with certain considerations as desired by the researcher. The sample criteria used are parents who have children aged 3 to 6 years, have higher education (minimum undergraduate / academy), earn more than 1.2 million / month and parents who have children no more than 2 people. The sample in this study was 4 people because it had reached data saturation.

In this study, researchers collected data by conducting direct interviews with participants and using data collection techniques in the form of in-depth interviews. The information submitted by the participants is made into interview transcripts and then looks for keywords from these transcripts. The keywords that are collected are then categorized to form themes. The resulting theme is then presented in the form of a narrative that is supported by the results of this research in the form of narrative from the research participants.

The information that has been obtained is then tested for validity using member check and extend observations. Validity testing is done by returning to participants giving interview transcripts that have been made and asking again if the transcripts are appropriate when in-depth interviews. Participants sign the transcript if the participant agrees to the transcript.

III. RESULTS

Participants in this study amounted to 4 people are parents who have children aged 3 to 6 years. The first (P-1) and fourth (P-4) participants had two children aged 12 years and 3 years, the second participant (P-2) and the third (P-3) had one 4-year-old child. In this study all participants had the latest undergraduate education and were in the middle to upper economic level as measured by earning more than Rp. 1,200,000 / month.

Researchers have identified 4 themes that are formed from 6 sub themes, 14 categories, 66 core categories and 221 keywords. The four themes are: 1) Parents' Knowledge about verbal abuse in children; 2) Forms of verbal abuse committed by

parents on children; 3) Factors that cause parents to verbally abuse children; 4) The impact of verbal abuse by parents on children.

1. Parents' Knowledge about verbal abuse in children

Two out of four participants said that verbal violence in the form of words that are not good to say, such as the words uttered by one of the participants below:

"... Yes, one of them is that, what was said was not appropriate to be said as verbal violence. Talking bad isn't it ... " (P-1).

Two other participants said verbal abuse on children is when parents shout at children, as stated by one participant below:

"... If we are verbal, we are snapping, we are stupid (saying the word " stupid "), then we are swearing (saying despicable words), it is verbal abuse ..." (P-3).

2. The forms of verbal violence committed by parents on children

Participants said verbal violence was of various types. The type of verbal abuse mentioned by all participants is to snap and vent their anger at the child, such as the example of the second participant's statement below:

"... Snapped like that earlier" So a naughty child, do not want to obey the mama ... ". (P-2).

"... Yes, scolded. Do not know anything scolded, even though it's still small. Maybe like that. his son was venting his anger ... ". (P-2)

3. Factors that cause parents to verbally abuse children

The cause of parents doing verbal abuse on children occurs because of two things, the first because of the parents themselves, the second is due to the characteristics of the child. Three of the four participants said that children aged 3 to 4 years were more likely to imitate, such as the statement made by one of the participants below:

"... If they say that they live everyday in an environment where their parents or siblings say poorly, they will record, and when he is good at speaking, then he will imitate. And he will convey to others ... ". (P-1).

The second factor is from within the parent. The four participants said that because they verbally abused children, one of them was because of the character of the parents, parents who had hard characters so that they could easily verbally abuse the child. The character of such parents is the formation of previous parents, how to educate and guide children greatly affects the formation of character. Speaking of two of the four participants as below:

"... In my opinion, how come it has to do with your character, the character or traits that she brought from birth can also be. The character he carries from birth, then he comes from what family, being educated in what kind of environment, it will affect the way he educates his child, and may also convey communication to his child ... ".

"... Grandma (if), in my opinion, the only person left is the person left. The character of the person ... ". (P-4).

4. The impact of verbal abuse by parents on children.

The impact of parents doing verbal abuse on children has both positive and negative aspects. The positive impact of parents doing verbal acts of violence on children is so that children think that what they are doing is wrong, such as a statement from one of the participants:

"... Yeah, so I mean let me think. Why the heck why are you angry, because of what, let him not repeat again, oh daddy is angry because of this ... ". (P-3).

Three of the four participants said the negative impact of verbal violence that verbal abuse would be continuous, so what parents do to their children now, will also be done to their children later, as stated by participant 2 below:

"... Yes. And maybe what a parent does to a child maybe his child also does it to his child again ... ". (P-2).

IV. DISCUSSION

Participants understand that verbal actions can be violent behavior. Verbal violence is violence against feelings using words with harsh words without touching the physical. Slanderous words, words that threaten, frighten, insult, or exaggerate the mistakes of others [5].

The definition of verbal violence said by participants in accordance with Patricia Evans's theory that one of the forms of verbal violence is terrorizing. Terrorizing children occurs when parents attack the child by yelling and venting anger at the child. This can create a climate of fear for children [6].

The factor of parents doing verbal violence is due to the child's factor. Three of the four participants said that the characteristics of children aged 3 to 6 years were very good at imitating. This is consistent with Santrock's theory which explains in his book that the ability of children at the age of 3 to 4 years to pay attention to stimulus increases dramatically. Children at this age pay more attention to something striking and then will imitate [7].

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Verbal violence that occurs in children is also due to the character of the parents in accordance with the theory put forward by previous research compiled by Munawati that all actions to children are recorded in their subconscious mind and carried into adulthood. Children who get cruel behavior from their parents become aggressive and after becoming parents will have the same character as the parents were raised [8].

Participants say that they commit verbal violence with good intentions on children, namely so that children think that what they are doing is wrong. This is consistent with the theory put forward by Ericson that the development of children aged between 3 and 4 years is that children begin to develop initiatives when trying new things [6].

The long-term impact that occurs from verbal abuse on children is to cause a chain of violence on the family. These results are consistent with the results of related research conducted by Munawati, namely another long-term effect that children who get verbal abuse can do the same later on their children later when they become parents. This happens because the essence of the children is a master copycat [8].

V. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Conclusion

The four participants already knew in broad terms the understanding of verbal abuse on children, but all four participants also said that they had verbally abused children. Things that have been done by the four participants is to yell at the child and make the child as an outlet for the anger of parents.

The factors of parents doing these actions are due to 2 things, the first because of factors from the child and second because of parents. Parents assume that their children aged 3 and 4 years are naughty children, so they often do this to their children.

The factor of parents is due to the character possessed by the parents themselves. Parents who have a strong character tend to be more likely to engage in verbal abuse behavior in children. A person's character is influenced because of the family background he had before. This is what causes the chain of violence on families.

Parents also say the impact is not much, even though the impact is no less bad than physical violence behavior. This can cause the child to be afraid then feel inferior to his friends and then the child's development can be disrupted so that the child's self-concept becomes bad and the child will imitate the behavior of parents at present and in the future after the child has a family

Suggestions

Parents should seek information about how to behave to children so as not to commit violence intentionally or unintentionally, especially verbal abuse behavior. This information can be obtained through mass media such as newspapers, tabloids and magazines and electronic media such as radio, television and the internet. The internet is the most effective and efficient media because through the internet, parents can obtain information as needed and can discuss directly with child experts such as pediatricians and child psychologists.

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