

Labour Strategy as Break Through to End Violence and Exploitation against Children

ABSTRACT

This study aims to gain knowledge about the experiences of girls who are victims of violence and exploitation from parents. This research was conducted in Somba Opu Sub-district, Romangpolong Village, Indonesia. Post-positivism paradigm was used as the basis of the research because of its advantages in allowing researchers to uncover the process of violence and exploitation perpetrated by parents against girls that occurs repeatedly. Data was collected by means of in-depth interviews. The determination of informants in this study used a purposive sampling technique, where the researcher chose informants variably based on reasons, which numbered 6 people with the following age criteria: girls (aged 7-10 years) and adolescent girls (aged 11-14 years). The results showed: (i) Providing parenting education for kids. (ii) Building good communication between parents and children (iii) Returning children who drop out of school by collaborating with the Education Office, DP3A, Social Service, and Regional Planning and Development Agency, Polres (iv) Parents are given special training related to how to improve the family economy a (v) Providing assistance evenly and gradually.

Keywords: Violence; exploitation; labour; children.

1. INTRODUCTION

Children who do not get attention from their parents will have a negative impact on their future (Meivy, 2016). Girls who are victims of violence will result in neglect [1]. Exposure is so high that the most vulnerable children involved in the public child welfare system with estimates hovering around 50% Carlson, [2]; English, [3]; Beeman, Hagemester, & Edleson, [4]; Haight et al., [5], and pose a significant threat to achieving family permanence Schechter, & Edleson, [6]. Exponential has been witnessed in sexual violence against women worldwide [7]. ECPAT (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes mentions that the Southeast Asian region is targeted by syndicate networks of sexual exploitation and child sex trafficking [8]. Everyone will experience suffering of a different form and nature (Sri, 2016). Not understanding the world of children makes life hard so that it disturbs the psychology of children [9].

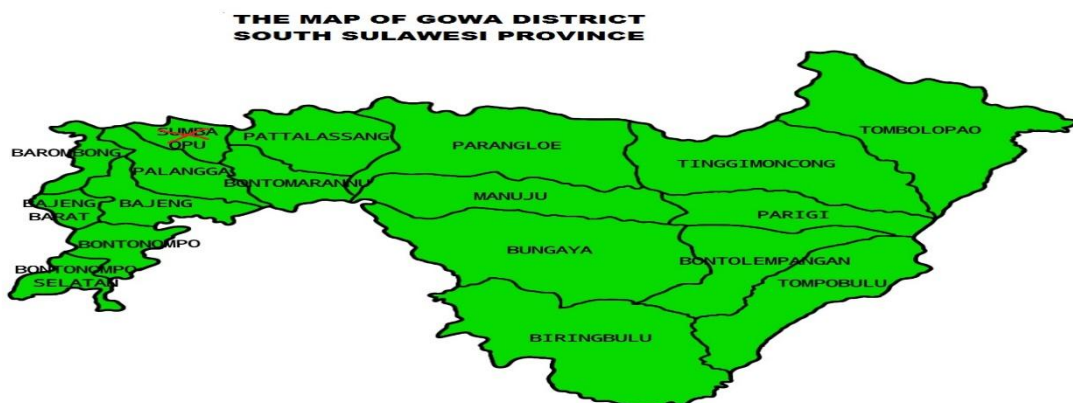
The National Commission on Violence against Children and Women recorded 338,496 cases in 2021. This figure increased by around 50% from the 2020 report of 226,062 cases (Komnas Perempuan dan Anak, 2021). The Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection stated that around 25,050 children and women were victims of violence in Indonesia throughout 2022. This number increased by 15.2% from the previous year of 21,753 cases (PPPA, 2022).

The high number of cases of violence and exploitation has reached an alarming point. DP3A Gowa [10] concluded that violence against girls with a variety of problems, violence against children both physical and psychological, neglect, threatening, harassment, exploitation, and pimping. The high number of cases of violence against girls is increasing every year, making stakeholders strategise in various ways until violence against girls occurs repeatedly to this day.

Denzin [11] states that constructivism sees empirical reality as constructive, so that in contrast to positivism and post-positivism, constructivism is almost the antithesis of the notion that places observation and objectivism as a way to discover a reality or science so that this notion rejects positivism and post-positivism and states that it must be replaced with constructivism. Ontologically, this understanding is relativistic and believes that reality exists in the form of various kinds of mental constructions based on social experience, is local and specific and depends on the person who does it so that it cannot be generalised. Berger [12] states in understanding Bergerian social construction theory through externalisation, society is a human product; through objectivation, society becomes a *sui generis*, unique reality; and through internalisation, humans are products of society, there is a process of pulling out (externalisation) so that it seems to be outside (objectivation), and further there is a process of pulling back in (internalisation) so that what is outside seems to be inside.

The purpose of this research is to reveal the processes of internalisation, objectivation and externalisation that occur in actors involved in the cycle of violence and exploitation of girls. After the introduction, we will reveal the methods, results, discussion and close with a conclusion.

2. METHODS



This research uses a case study. Cresswell (1998) states that as the name implies, case study research is research that places something or the object under study as a "case". The reason for choosing the research location is because every year there is an increase in the number of cases of violence and exploitation against girls that occur repeatedly. Researchers found that there were many underage girls who were forced into labour by their parents using verbal, physical and psychological violence. The determination of informants in this study was *purposive sampling*. The subjects of this research are: girls who are victims of violence and exploitation are divided into 2 categories, namely, girls (aged 7-10 years) and adolescent girls (aged 11-14 years) totaling 6 people. Data collection techniques using observation, interviews, and documentation. The data validation technique used to test the credibility of data in this study is *member check*. The data validation technique in this study is that the data obtained in the field is then processed descriptively qualitative by going through three stages, namely data reduction, data presentation and conclusion drawing.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Girls who are victims of verbal, physical and psychological abuse occur repeatedly when their parents' wage targets are not met.

3.1 Child Exploitation Through Labour

To be a child labourer is a demand, where spending time selling kerupuk around is a compulsion that becomes an obligation every day. They are minors who are forced to work by their parents with a target wage, if the wage is not met the beatings occur. Some take part-time jobs after school, while others sell crackers from morning to night.

3.1.1 N (11 years old)

My profit was a thousand/pcs, taking part-time jobs to help the family after school. The demands of my parents and younger siblings make me sell with great compulsion, the lure of the wages given by my mother makes me feel happy so that

my desire to buy snacks is immediately fulfilled, and this goes on continuously.

3.1.2 A (10 Years)

Selling crackers is an obligation from parents, where there is a demand to finish selling in a day, it is not easy and not easy to go through all this, grateful if you get 20,000 which can be used to buy tempeh and fish. The yelling and beatings from her father make her feel even worse when she is tired of selling and it's not just one day, but every day like this.

3.1.3 A (11 Years)

After school, I immediately sell 5 or 7 pcs of crackers that I carry with me with a profit of 2000/pcs, if other people are 7000/pcs then I am 9000/pcs, then the proceeds are given to my mother. Anger and yelling were daily food for me who sometimes did not meet the target. In order to help the family's economy, I make this work my obligation as a child even though it is every day.

3.1.4 A (8 Years)

Selling crackers is something that must be done, it is a demand from parents that must be carried out because if you don't get angry and beaten.

3.1.5 M (7 Years)

This job is a mandatory job that must be obeyed as a child. With the targets given by parents, it makes them even more active to work hard selling, with the lure of her mother to send her to school even though she sometimes gets a scolding and a pinch if she doesn't match the results of her sales.

3.1.6 A (14 years old)

She works every day to help her family's economy. Although he only went to school until grade 4, he did not want to stop aspiring despite the financial constraints. Sometimes her parents scold and push her if she doesn't sell out.

The absence of decisive action from the local government further convinces parents that exploiting their children selling crackers is a safe job to do, so it happens repeatedly. Therefore, strategies are needed to break the chain of violence and exploitation of girls through labour, among others:

1. Provide parenting education for children: In this case, anticipating early all forms of violence against girls. Then to facilitate this strategy, a helping hand is needed from stakeholders in order to reduce the number of cases of violence against children.
2. Establish good communication between parents and children: By building good and smooth communication between parents and children, it will be able to overcome the problems that exist in the home, of course, by involving local stakeholders.
3. Bringing back children who dropped out of school: This is a strategic step that can reduce the number of cases of violence against children. This step aims to bring children who have dropped out of school back to school by involving the Education Office.
4. Parents are given specialized training on how to improve the family economy: By providing training to affected families, at least it can reduce the number of cases of violence and exploitation against girls,

of course, by looking at the talents or expertise of the family, for example, he is an expert in making fish crackers, so the stakeholder involved in this case is the Fisheries Service.

5. Provide assistance evenly and gradually: Providing assistance evenly and gradually to affected families by involving stakeholders from the Social Service and Zakat Agency.

Table 1. Violence and exploitation

Sex	Age	Jobs	Violence
Female	11	Student, crackers seller	Psychological: accentuation, coercion
Female	10	Student, crackers seller	Verbal: using bad words (stupid) Physical: beating, pulling the ear Psychological: accentuation, coercion
Female	11	Student, crackers seller	Psychological: accentuation, coercion
Female	8	Crackers seller	Psychological: accentuation, coercion
Female	7	Crackers seller	Verbal: using bad words (stupid) Physical: pinch, throw Psychological: accentuation, coercion
Female	14	Crackers seller	Verbal: using bad words (stupid) Physical: strike Psychological: accentuation, coercion

The results of the study show that children who are victims of violence and exploitation by their parents sell crackers by targeting wages, if they do not meet them then beatings occur. The violence is physical, verbal, and psychological. This finding is in line with the results of a study [14] which states that violence against women is influenced by 4 factors, cultural, legal, geographical, and economic, causing psychological, economic, health and social impacts.

The welfare of battered women and children involved in the child welfare system sees the importance of providing material and emotional support services [15].

With Bergerian's concept of social construction regarding the 3 stages of internalisation, objectivation, and externalisation, the form that makes girls become workers is the coercion and targets of parents in working. The absence of firm action from the government such as the police makes parents feel safe in carrying out their actions in extracting profits from their children. Through internalisation, objectivation, and externalisation, the researcher concludes that there is a social construction of girls as workers.

4. CONCLUSION

Forms that make children become workers are coercion and targets from parents in working. There is no firm action from the local government such as the police so that parents feel safe in carrying out their actions in making profits for

their children. Through internalization, objectivities, and externalization, the researcher concludes that there is a social construction of girls as workers.

Children are the successors of the nation; children are young shoots who have a strategic role that will bring our beloved country to the gate of a bright future because children are the link of hope. Especially for girls whose upbringing is somewhat different from boys, where girls prioritize feelings over logic [16]. Therefore, what children need is safety and well-being, meaning freedom from all the shackles of suffering that grip their small world and what should be meant for playing and learning, not for work. In order for the younger generation to carry out their respective duties and functions, it is necessary to have the widest opportunity to grow and develop both physically, mentally and socially, and to guarantee their future so that what we hope for the younger generation will be optimal [16-20].

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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