

## PARENTAL ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIORS TOWARDS THE PREVENTION OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN A HEALTH PERSPECTIVE

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### ABSTRACT

The role of parents in mentoring the child's growth and development phase is very important. How parents provide sexual education to children has not been widely illustrated, this reality is very concerning, considering that the news exposed today contains a lot about the increase in the level of violence that occurs in children, especially sexual violence. The purpose of this study is to identify parents' attitudes and behaviors towards the prevention of sexual violence in children, especially from a health perspective. This research method uses observational analysis with a cross-sectional study approach. The population and sample were parents who had school-age children (aged 6-12 years) in East Java. The data were taken using a questionnaire containing questions about attitudes and behaviors in terms of the prevention of sexual violence in children carried out by parents and will be analyzed with a chi square test. The results of this study showed that good parental attitudes have a relationship with parental behavior towards the prevention of sexual violence in children in a health perspective with a category of good behavior of 20 respondents, enough 58 respondents, and less 3 respondents. Meanwhile, parents' attitudes are quite good in relation to parental behavior towards the prevention of sexual violence in children in a health perspective with a good category of 6 respondents, enough 43 respondents, and less than 10 respondents. The conclusions of this study show that parents' attitudes in educating and preventing sexual violence against children are influenced by several factors such as education, level of knowledge and parents' habits.

**Keywords:** Attitudes, Behaviors, Parents, Sexual Violence, Children

### INTRODUCTION

Adolescence is one of the transitional periods from childhood to adulthood, an episode in which the process of maturation of the human reproductive organs occurs with an age range between 11-21 years. In this phase, adolescent individuals experience changes and developments in many aspects,

one of which is the development of more mature sexual aspects (Kurniasari, 2019). The result of such a process of sexual maturity will create sexual interest accompanied by adolescent curiosity about the sexual (Aini, 2014).

The sexual behavior of adolescents is based on

environmental factors that include hormonal, biological, and others. Interventions must be prepared early related to secular education so that adolescents can have concerns about healthy sexual behaviors both for themselves and for society (free from sexual deviant behavior). The role of parents in guiding the growth and development phase of children is very important. How parents provide sexual education to children so far has not been widely illustrated (Andriani et al., 2017).

Incidents of violence against children are increasing, starting this month 204 cases were obtained with perpetrators close to the victim. Before the pandemic and after the pandemic there was an increase of 19 cases, and in June as many as 24 cases were reported. Violence against women and children in East Java is still relatively high, increasing during the Covid-19 pandemic, where 59 percent occurs at home (Sheylla Septina Margaretta, 2020). KPAI (Indonesian Child Protection Commission) stated that there were 1,726 cases of sexual abuse, and children experienced around 58% of sexual abuse cases (Solehati et al., 2022). Data from the Indonesian Pediatric Association (IDAI) shows sexual violence at home (48.7%), school (4.6%), public places (6.1%), workplaces (3.0%) and other places (37.6%). The highest percentage of sexual violence occurs at home (Septiani, 2021). The implementation of sexual education cannot be arbitrary, must meet standards and be supervised by responsible parties. Based on the description above, a study was conducted to show the attitudes and behaviors of parents towards the prevention of sexual violence in children from a

health perspective.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Sexual violence is a form of violence committed intentionally by inflicting physical or mental injury, sexual abuse, and inappropriate treatment or mistreatment of a child under the age of 18 by a person responsible for the welfare of the child in circumstances indicating that the child's health is harmed or threatened by him (Handayani et al. 2017).

The family is the smallest environment in which individuals grow up. These norms and values apply to maintain a well-run interaction. Communication and interaction will affect the perception of each other's status and role. Based on the perspective of the family as this system, the family has an obligation to meet the needs of its family which include physical needs, psychological needs such as being given affection, spiritual needs and so on. A prosperous family is described as being able to meet all the needs of family members and can be harmonized in responsibilities between roles in family members (Krisnani and Kessik 2020).

This is not only about the safety of the child from acts of sexual violence, but covers all the needs of the child, the role of the family as a caregiver is the key to success in dealing with problems that occur in the child. The behavior of affiliation, dependent, swallowing, aggressiveness and the achievements of the caregiver are the main indicators that shape the parenting behavior that the mother will show as a caregiver when parenting (Sciences et al., 2021).

The impact of Sexual Violence on Children greatly affects its psychological and psychosocial aspects. The personality condition of the child who experiences violence will be able to give rise to various forms of behavior (Handayani et al., 2017). People who have experienced a traumatic event include people who have experienced, witnessed and are faced with a traumatic event. This can happen because traumatic events will be permanently recorded in the human brain. The state of affairs from when a person experiences or after experiencing a frightening event. Commonly referred to as post-traumatic syndrome, during the critical phase of children, the impact will be very noticeable.

The traumatic events experienced are back in the recurring episodes. Personality types usually influence the process. Symptoms of pronounced anxiety or increased awareness. Reflexes are quick to respond, or too sensitive and sensitive to psychological or emotional stimuli, if left for too long can develop towards the symptoms of paranoid behavior. Emotional disturbances, fear, vigilance and others should be suspected in children who have experienced or received sexual violence.

## RESEARCH METHODS

### Study Design

This type of research uses observational analysis with a *cross-sectional study* design to determine the relationship between one variable and another, namely parents' attitudes towards sexual violence that occurs in children. The incubation criteria in this study

were parents who had schoolchildren aged 6-12 years who were in the East Java region. The selection of respondents was carried out using accidental sampling where the study was carried out for 3 months.

### Instruments

The research begins with the observation stage to the field for initial data mining, then an approach is carried out by introducing self-identity to the research respondents. Data collection using an instrument, namely a questionnaire consisting of questionnaire 1 on parents' attitudes towards violence against children consisting of 15 statements with a nominal data scale with good, adequate and less criteria. While questionnaire 2 is about parental violence prevention behaviors against children presented in 20 statements with an ordinal data scale with good, sufficient and inadequate criteria.

### Data Analysis

Data analysis was performed using Spss Statistics 20.0 with  $p < 0.05$  as the significance level. Demographic data in the study consist of the sex of the child, occupation, average income presented in the form of frequency distribution. Acts of sexual violence against children will be categorized into 2 categories, namely positive attitudes (which means parents have a supportive attitude) and negative attitudes (which means parents are not supportive), and assessments of parental behavior in an effort to prevent sexual violence in children will be categorized into three categories, namely good behavior, good enough behavior, good enough behavior, and bad behavior. The

bivariate analysis used is the *chi square* test, because the variables to be studied are categorical

(nominal and ordinal).

## RESULTS and DISCUSSION

From the results of the analysis, Table 1 presents that the most jobs in parents are civil servants / civil servants by 70 or 50% with the last education the majority being

undergraduates 101 respondents or 72.1%. The average income of parents ranges according to the UMR of 68 or 48.6%. The average parent has the majority of boys with 78 or 55.7% of the time.

**Table 1. Frequency distribution of respondents by occupation, average income, parent education and child gender**

Do not	Characteristic	Percentage	
		N	%
1.	<b>Work</b>		
	Civil Servants/Private	70	50
	TNI/Polri	0	0
	Teachers/Lecturers	25	17,9
	Worker	5	3,5
	Miscellaneous	40	28,5
	Entire		
2.	<b>Average earnings</b>		
	According to the UMR	68	48,6
	More than UMR	58	41,4
	Less than UMR	14	10
	Entire	140	100
3.	<b>Education</b>		
	SD	0	0
	SMP	2	1,4
	SMA	15	10,7
	Bachelor	101	72,1
	Entire	140	100
3.	<b>Gender of the Child</b>		
	Woman	62	44,2
	One	78	55,7
	Entire	140	100

**Table 2. The relationship of attitudes and behaviors of parents towards the prevention of sexual violence in children**

Variable	Behaviour			Chi-Square	P-value	Decision
	Good	Enough	Less			
Attitude	Good	20	58	10,333	0,006	Significantly Related
	Enough	6	43			

The results of the test with spss found that good parental attitudes had a relationship with parental behavior towards the prevention of child sexual violence in a health perspective with the category of good behavior 20 respondents, a sufficient number of 58 respondents, and less than a total of 3 respondents. Meanwhile, the attitude of parents is quite good in relation to parental behavior towards the affect a person's level of knowledge, this is because the level of education can be a benchmark for respondents' maturity. In addition to the level of education, the level of knowledge of the parents is also one of the things that can influence a person's attitude in acting. This is not in line with Hidayati's research (2015) where the role of parents is important in aspects of children's lives. Children and adolescents of an age where the child does not understand about sexual problems. Children are also unable to avoid experiencing sexual violence because they do not have the power to resist, especially in physical and psychic threats (Septiani, 2021). Sexual violence has an impact on the level of child development because the child's thinking ability is still early. In addition, children still do not have the capacity to set boundaries and make them very vulnerable (Joleby et al., 2021).

prevention of sexual violence in children in a health perspective with a good category of 6 respondents, enough 43 respondents, and less than 10 respondents.

The attitude of parents towards children is on average a good attitude. This is influenced by various things according to the general characteristics in the respondents. One of them is that parents' educational history can

The level of education of parents will affect the increase in their role in accompanying and educating children. The research results obtained in addition to getting good attitude results, there are also bad results from old *orang sikkap*. This is influenced by several things including the level of parental education and different parenting patterns. This is in line with research conducted by Apriastuti (2012) which states that parenting patterns are influenced by the culture that exists in their environment because everything in the family is good. Some parents may not yet have accurate knowledge related to their child's sexual development. For example, parents who do not have sufficient knowledge about sexual behavior with genitals exposed to each other as a rude thing (McCoy et al., 2021).

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## CONCLUSION

Parents have an important role in the condition of their children, especially in forming a positive attitude about their

children. The education and knowledge of their parents becomes the foundation and is one of the factors that can influence a person's attitude towards acting to prevent sexual abuse of children.

## Suggestion

The next suggestion for researchers is that the research conducted by the researcher is a reference data must be accountable by identifying, analyzing and presenting the data obtained. In addition, researchers can develop research results into education and nursing practice in improving services and the quality of nursing care. Advice to parents from the results of this study is expected to be a reference for data and information for parents who have children to pay more attention to attitudes and increase knowledge in order to prevent sexual abuse behavior in children.

Suggestions for subsequent researchers are expected to conduct research related to the identification of factors<sup>2</sup> that cause sexual abuse in children.

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