Local Culture in Indonesia as Risk of Child Sexual Abuse: A Systematic Review

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Abstract

Introduction: Sexual issues in Indonesia are never discussed openly in the family, one of the contributing factors is the presumption of taboo culture in the conversation of sexual topics. This can be a risk of sexual abuse in children. Objective: To identify the cultural diversity of Indonesia at risk of child sexual abuse. Method: We conducted systematic reviews using PubMed, Science Direct, SpringerLink, EBSCO for the keywords “Indonesian culture” AND “child sexual abuse”, then Google Scholar for keywords “nilai-nilai” ATAU “budaya Indonesia” DAN “kekerasan seksual anak”. Literature searched follow inclusion criteria such as articles Indonesian and English, published in 2011–2021, Full-text, primary research, focusing on sexual abuse in children in terms of culture. After an initial selection of 4866 articles, then filtered and assessed using the JBI Tool so that 5 qualified articles were obtained. Results: It was found that family factors, internal factors of perpetrators and victims, and external factors were cultural in Indonesia that are at risk of sexual abuse in children. Conclusion: Based on the results of research it can be concluded that most cultures in Indonesia still consider it taboo to talk about sexual topics to children, so it can be a risk of sexual abuse in children. It is recommended that research be conducted to educate the problem of sexual abuse in children through a cultural approach involving family factors, internal factors, and external factors.

INTRODUCTION

Sexual abuse against children is a relationship committed at the whim of one party only against minors in a sexual context, a sexual crime (Zahirah et al., 2019). According to the World Report on Abuse and Health, WHO (2002) sexual abuse against children is an act performed by older people using children for sexual gratification (Krug et al., 2002). The sexual abuse problem is a serious problem. According to the Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAI), in 2012 there were 1,028 cases of sexual abuse and in 2013 there were about 1,266 cases of sexual abuse against children (Noviana, 2015). Based on data from the Women and Children Protection Online Information System (SIMFONI PPA), from January 1 – June 19, 2020 cases of sexual abuse against children have reached 1,848 cases where this figure is relatively high (Kemen PPPA, 2020). The occurrence of sexual abuse is caused by many factors, one of which is the knowledge of the child and the surrounding environment related to sexual abuse.

Public knowledge about the prevention of sexual abuse against children in Indonesia is still low, this is because there is a taboo by most people to talk about sexually related topics in their children. People feel uncomfortable when discussing the issue, and still assume that the child is not ready to discuss sexuality. In addition, there is still ignorance about how to convey knowledge about sexuality to children (Zakiyah et al., 2016). This is very related to the culture embraced by the people of Indonesia, one of which is the...
Javanese cultural realm still considers taboo in talks about sex (Lewoleba & Fakhrazi, 2020). Javanese culture itself considers taboo vulgar terms in the delivery of material about sexual education. Most rural Javanese state that sexual education is not the responsibility of parents\(^1\), but rather leaves it entirely to teachers of the Koran, Ustaz, pastors, and religious teachers in schools (Ulva et al., 2018). In addition, there is a culture in Jember known as culture of “Pandalungan” which is an acculturation of Javanese culture and Madura culture. The culture is bound by religious and cultural values that are very thick but to learn sex education is still very lacking and considered taboo because it is not in accordance with the values and norms that apply to society (Ulva et al., 2018).

Based on the many events of sexual abuse and the presumption of taboos in the provision of sexual education, we wanted to identify cultures that could be at risk of sexual abuse against children so that solutions can be found. The purpose of the study was to identify the diversity of Indonesian culture that can be a trigger for child sexual abuse.

**METHOD**

This study used systematic review methods using guidelines Preferred Reporting Items from Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) (Moher, Liberati, Tetzlaff, & Altman, 2009). To identify search keywords by using PICO, P: child, I: Indonesian culture, C: -, O: Risk factors for child sexual abuse Article searches were conducted in each database using inclusion criteria that include articles Indonesian and English, published in 2011-2021, Full-text, primary research, focusing on sexual abuse against children reviewed in terms of culture.

A search for articles using the Database in English keywords “Indonesian culture” AND “child sexual abuse” in the PubMed found 4 articles, Science Direct found 3 articles, SpringerLink found 6 articles, and EBSCO found 3 articles. Indonesian keywords “nilai-nilai” ATAU “budaya Indonesia” DAN “kekerasan seksual anak”. using Google Scholar Database found 4850 articles, so preliminary data found 4866 articles. Then a screening of the article found 4864 articles duplicated and 2 articles excluded. The result found there were 5 articles that were in terms. All researchers screened on the title and abstract of articles that fit the criteria that have been set. Articles that do not meet the criteria were excluded. The reason for being issues was documented. The article search path can be seen in figure 1.

**Data Extraction**

After found the eligible article then conducted data extraction, including Title, Author, Year, and Place, purpose, type of research, sample, instrument used, research results.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

After a literature review, we found articles that discussed several cultures in Indonesia that were at risk of child sexual abuse. Finally, obtained 5 articles selected that discussed factors including cultures at risk of sexual abuse against children in Indonesia, two articles related to family factors, one article related to internal factors, and two articles related to external factors. Of the five research journals that we have selected, all five were conducted in Indonesia. See Table 1.

Sexual abuse against children was any adult treatment of a minor used as a source of adult sexual gratification or an older child in the form of coercion (Dania, 2020). In everyday life, the relationship between adults and children is formed in a pattern of controlling relationships, or so-called power relations, in which case the child becomes a parent (Lewoleba & Fakhrazi, 2020). In such situations, many children become victims of sexual abuse. There are many cases of children who despite having blood relations and living under one roof with their parents’ or foster guardians become victims of sexual abuse and neglect. One of the factors that can trigger sexual abuse against children is the risk abuse, here are the causative factors:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title and Place</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Type of research</th>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>Instruments</th>
<th>Result</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phenomenological Studies: Factors That Affect the Occurrence Sexual Abuse against Girls in Wonosobo County (Setiani, Handayani, &amp; Warsiti, 2017)</strong></td>
<td>To get an idea of the factors that influence the occurrence of sexual abuse in girls in Wonosobo Regency.</td>
<td>Qualitative with a descriptive approach.</td>
<td>The main informant of girls who experienced sexual abuse and supporting informants, namely parents’ or guardians, the closest person trusted by respondents, officers of the Women’s and Children’s Information Services Unit (UPIPA).</td>
<td>Interview guide and observation guide.</td>
<td>The study explains that the factors that influence sexual abuse against children are: 1. Family factor. The results showed that all informants who experienced sexual abuse were children of divorce victims or came from incomplete families. 2. Environmental Factors. Unhealthy or vulnerable social environment conditions can be a conducive factor for children/adolescents to behave unnaturally. 3. Value Factor. Early marriage is high in the incidence of marital failure. A young pregnancy risk being mentally unprepared in marriage and parenthood.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Effect of Cultural Values on Knowledge Parents’ On Sex Education in Early Childhood In Wonosari Mangli Jember Village (Ulva, Handayani, &amp; Ervina, 2018) Wonosari Mangli Jember Village, Indonesia.</td>
<td>To find out the influence of cultural values on parents’ knowledge about sex education in early childhood in Wonosari Mangli Jember Village.</td>
<td>Quantitative 127 parents’ of Wonosari Mangli Jember villagers.</td>
<td>Scale the adaptable cultural values of Schwartz, (2012). The results showed no influence between cultural values on parents’ knowledge of early childhood sex education and a sig. 0.713 &gt; 0.05.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Study of Factors for Action Sexual Abuse in Children (Lewoleba &amp; Fakhrazi, 2020) Indonesian.</td>
<td>To find out the meaning of sexual abuse to children and whether factors cause sexual abuse in Kids.</td>
<td>Qualitative with a descriptive approach. Use primary and secondary data.</td>
<td>Interview guide. The results showed that sexual abuse against children is a relationship or interaction between a child and an older person or adult such as a stranger, sibling, or parent where the child is used as an object of sexual needs of the perpetrator. It can be influenced by internal factors and external factors. Internal factors include psychiatric factors, biological factors, moral factors, and revenge and past trauma, while external factors are cultural factors, economic factors, lack of collective awareness of child protection in the educational environment, exposure to child pornography and adult pornography that sacrifice children, weak law enforcement and the threat of relatively mild punishment, disharmony among children's products, children in disaster and emergency situations, as well as the impact of industrial development and tourism.</td>
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<td>Case Study of Parenting of Parents’ About Sex Education Child Victim of Sexual Abuse in Samarinda City (Oktavianna, Siswanto, &amp; Rohmah, 2017) Samarinda, Indonesia.</td>
<td>To give a picture of the parenting that parents’ give to the child.</td>
<td>Qualitative case studies The main informant is the mother and father of the victim. Key informant head of KPAID Kota Samarinda. Supporting informant: He is the victim's teacher, victim, and friend of the victim.</td>
<td>Interview In-depth, documentation and observation. Parenting consists of a control dimension and a dimension of warmth. Based on the results of the interview, there is no dimension of control carried out by parents’ such as aspects of parental roles, namely aspects of restrictions, aspects of strict attitudes, arbitrary aspects of power. In addition, based on the results of the interview, the absence of parental warmth such as aspects of parental attention to the child’s well-being, parental responsiveness to the child's needs, aspects sensitive to children’s emotions. The non-application of this dimension of parenting becomes one of the risk factors for child sexual abuse.</td>
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Family Factors

Family factors are something that exists in the family because each family member can affect the other. Then family factors can be a trigger for the occurrence of child sexual abuse. Some family factors that influence sexual abuse in children, including parental parenting, parental knowledge of sexual education, and parental divorce.

<table>
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<th>Parenting Parents’</th>
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<td>The causative factor of the emergence of parenting is the background of parents’ who will be applied to the child. Parenting can be seen from the dimension of control and the dimension of warmth consisting of several aspects. The dimension of control consists of aspects of parental roles, namely aspects of restrictions, strict attitudes, and power. In the aspect of restrictions, one of them is the absence of restrictions on parental behavior towards children and the lack of parental awareness about the importance of providing educational sex to children. Aspects of strict attitudes include the lack of prevention efforts against sexual abuse in children. One example is the style of dress. This is included in victim precipitation as a factor that influences the occurrence of sexual abuse, namely the criminogenic factor. This is included in the factors affected by the victim in triggering the crime of rape (Oktavianna et al., 2017). In addition, there is an aspect of power that is the lack of affirmation of the rules of leaving the house. It is known that quiet time at night can trigger acts of criminality (Oktavianna et al., 2017). While the dimension of parental warmth about educational sex is seen from the aspect of attention to the welfare of children due to the busyness of parents’. As well as the level of education and the inability of parents’ in providing sex education is very influential on the emergence of cases of sexual abuse against children (Gunarsa, 2004; Oktavianna et al., 2017). The responsiveness of parents to the needs of children is the lack of fulfillment of the child’s psychological needs. The sensitive aspect of children’s emotions is seen from the number of children who drop out of school in the families of victims, one of which is due to economic factors. So, parenting can be seen from the dimensions of control and warmth that can be reviewed from various aspects to examine the causes of sexual abuse in children. In addition, can be used as a knowledge of parents’ for efforts to prevent sexual abuse in children (Oktavianna et al., 2017).</td>
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2) Parental Divorce

The results showed that victims of parental divorce or coming from incomplete families caused psychological pain. The pain that exists in children triggers emotional instability. Children become separated from one of their parents’, this makes the child can hate themselves and his parents’. In this condition, parents are only physically present, but not emotionally present to give attention. Therefore, the child feels not getting attention at home, causing the child to seek the protection of others. This proves that divorce forms a pattern of child behavior towards others in society that increases the risk of sexual abuse against children (Dewi, 2019).

3) Parents’ Knowledge of Sexual Education

Research shows that there is no influence between cultural values and parents’ knowledge that may be due to discrepancies regarding the values used in Indonesia with foreign values that are accustomed to expressing their values (Ulva et al., 2018). This study stated that there are still many parents’ who feel embarrassed in conveying sexual education. In addition, parents argue that sex education is a natural thing for children to be known independently. Sexual education should be given to children from an early age when the child is able to communicate both ways so that they can understand and understand the information provided by parents’, as well as understand parts of the body’s organs. (Ulva et al., 2018). Aspects of sexual education that should be understood by parents are regarding body shape, reproductive organs, and sexual behavior. However, there are still many parents’ who have limitations in delivering sexual education because they lack confidence and lack of understanding about how it is delivered. So that prevention efforts by providing sexual education to children are still low and can be at risk of an increased incidence of sexual abuse against children (Ulva et al., 2018). The causative factor related to parents’ knowledge regarding the provision of sexual education is early marriage. Early marriage age is a concern for policymakers and planning of the marriage program, namely the religious department, because early marriage is at high risk of marital failure. Young pregnancies have the risk of being mentally unprepared to be able to foster marriage and become less responsible parents’ (Khilmiyah, 2014; Goddess, 2019).

Internal Factors of Perpetrators and Victims

Internal factors are contained in a person as a trigger to perform. Some factors that can be a driver of the perpetrator committing sexual abuse against children, including psychiatric factors, biological factors, moral factors, and revenge, and past trauma. Copy it there is also an individual factor of victims that triggers the occurrence of child sexual abuse.

1) Psychiatric Factors of The Perpetrator

Psychiatric factors are one of the factors of child sexual abuse. The state is a person that is not normal tends to be a motivating factor for someone to commit sexual abuse. Abnormal circumstances from within are meant such as when there is an abnormal sexual appetite that causes the

| Catcalling: Jokes, Compliments or Sexual Harassment (Dewi, 2019) | To know about the arrangements and people’s views on “catcalling”. | Processing data qualitatively and the results are presented in descriptive analysis. | 150 people living in Denpasar, Badung, and Gianyar. | Using online surveys, using google form tools that are spread through social networks in the community. | Based on the survey stated a need for a rule against this catcalling action and most respondents said that catcalling is not a compliment or a joke. |

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perpetrator to rape the victim where someone commits an act of sexual abuse on the basis of unconsciousness from within him (Lewoleba & Fakhrazi, 2020).

2) Biological Factors of The Perpetrator

As a human being, you have a variety of needs that must be met. One of them is biological needs, where biological needs consist of three types, namely food needs, sexual needs, and protection needs. Sexual needs are the same as other needs that demand fulfillment, therefore this biological needs fulfillment factor becomes one of the driving factors for a person to want to try to vent the fulfillment of his biological needs by committing acts of sexual abuse (Lewoleba & Fakhrazi, 2020).

3) Moral Factors of Perpetrators

The moral is an act/behavior/speech of a person in interacting with humans in accordance with the values of norms that apply in society to be accepted by society, where this moral is an absolute thing that must be accepted by humans. Morals are often referred to as filters against the emergence of deviant behavior so that low moral values are the determining factor for the onset of evil. This sexual abuse is due to the very low morale of the perpetrator (Lewoleba & Fakhrazi, 2020).

4) Revenge and Past Trauma of The Perpetrator

Perpetrators of sexual abuse against children are usually encouraged to want to commit acts of revenge for what happened when they were victims, then there is a motivation to feel back what has been felt so that sexual abuse is re-committed by the person. Psychologically someone who has been a victim of rape has been disturbed so often to commit sexual crimes (Lewoleba & Fakhrazi, 2020).

5) Individual Factors of Victims

Sexual abuse against children is generally caused by internal factors such as children experiencing body defects, mental retardation, behavioral disorders, autism, children too innocent, having a weak temperament, ignorance of children of their rights, children too dependent on adults. So that the perpetrator views the child as helpless and at risk of experiencing sexual abuse (Setiani et al., 2017). The condition of the helpless child will cause the child will not tell about what he experienced. This is because the perpetrator will control the victim so that there is sexual abuse against children and is difficult to avoid (Noviana, 2015).

External Factors

External factors are outside of a person. Some external factors that influence sexual abuse against children, including people’s view of catcalling, environmental factors, economic factors, and exposure to pornography.

1) People’s View of Catcalling

Sexual harassment is any unwanted sexual behavior, a request to perform a sexual act, either orally or physically, such as gestures of a sexual nature or all acts of a sexual nature, causing a person to feel humiliated, offended, and intimidated (Dewi, 2019). Based on sexual harassment, catcalling can be categorized into an act of verbal sexual abuse, because catcalling is a condition of attention that is not desired by someone by whistling or making inappropriate remarks in response to sexual attraction to someone receiving attention. Some people still think that catcalling does not include harassment, but rather comments that mean joking. Catcalling tends to trigger dangers such as psychological trauma and emotions such as fear, as publicly insulted women experience psychological disadvantages such as feelings of shame and helplessness (Dewi, 2019).

2) Environmental Factors

Poor social environmental conditions, slums, evicted children's playgrounds, indifference to acts of exploitation, views of child values that are too low, increasing wage economy, weak legal tools, lack of stable social control mechanisms trigger an increase in the incidence of child sexual abuse. The existence of unwanted pregnancies that are almost present in every informant community environment, illustrates an unhealthy social environment (Setiani et al., 2017).

3) Economic Factors

The economic factor in question is the problem of poverty. A less economical economy can be one of the factors that trigger a person to do whatever it takes to support themselves and their families. Poverty is not the only indicator of a child's vulnerability to sexual abuse. There are some data that hundreds or even thousands of children from poor families are victims of sexual abuse. Children who come from poor families and live on the streets tend to be treated themselves and their families. Poverty is not the only factor to trigger a person to do whatever it takes to support themselves and their families. Poverty is not the only indicator of a child's vulnerability to sexual abuse. There are some data that hundreds or even thousands of children from poor families are victims of sexual abuse. Children who come from poor families and live on the streets tend to be treated in unnatural ways as objects of sexual abuse (Lewoleba & Fakhrazi, 2020).

4) Exposure to Pornography

Exposure to pornography to children will cause disorders or damage to the brain so that it can cause disruption to the emotional status and psychological condition of children, this will be one of the factors triggering the onset of sexual abuse. The behavior of children who are addicted to pornography will be very visible because it looks different from children his age. (Lewoleba & Fakhrazi, 2020). The viewing of pornography can arouse a person's sexual desire by demanding the immediate distribution of desire. This is the problem when pornography is misused. Pornography becomes a powerful stimulant for its recipients, which when channeled in the wrong way will result in mild to severe sexual abuse (Lewoleba & Fakhrazi, 2020).

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Some cultures in Indonesia still consider it taboo to talk about sexual topics to children so that it can be a risk of child sexual abuse. There needs to be education to solve the problem of sexual abuse in children through a cultural approach involving family factors, internal factors, and external factors.
REFERENCES


