
Child Maltreatment Perform by Mother In Kepulauan Meranti Regency

Ria Novianti
Febrialismanto, Enda Puspitasari

Prodi PG PAUD FKIP UR
KampusBinaWidya Jl. HR Subrantas Km. 12,5KelurahanSimpangBaru-PanamPekanbaru
rianovianti.rasyad@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Child abuse is an old human history and nowadays we hear it happen more often. The performer of child abuse can be anybody, especially the closest one to children. Work field, social-economic level, and culture differences are some condition that would lead to stress and friction in people's live and for sure, it also affect the child rearing. The most influential person who play role in child rearing is a mother. But in fact, mother also become the performer in child maltreatment. Mother from the low income family often faced more problems and had to struggle to help providing family needs. It leads to stress and affecting the child rearing. In Kepulauan Meranti Regency, eventhough the number of child maltreatment is lower that other Regency in Riau Province, but the number is increasing about 3% per year, but most cases go unreported. The objective of this research is to describe the child maltreatment performed by mother in form of emotional abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse and neglect. The methodology used is descriptive quantitative approach to describe the form of child maltreatment. Result that can be concluded from the data analysis, the higher percentage of child maltreatment by mother is the physical abuse 57,62%, verbal abuse 51,43%, neglect 42,04% and sexual abuse 26,43%. Stressfull life leads to unappropriate behavior toward child. To prevent it, mother from low income family need support from other member of family and society to decrease stress level and maintain positive child rearing.

Keyword: *Child maltreatment, mother, child rearing*

Introduction

The rapid development and globalization in human civilization nowadays creates the condition that affect interaction pattern between human, including interaction in family. Children grows in family with the need of good rearing and guidance to become a healthy individual, both physically and mentally. Bad condition in child rearing such as child maltreatment might lead child to maladjustment and behavior problems.

The child maltreatment is define as behavior toward a child that is outside the norms of conduct and entails substantial risk of causing physical or emotional harm.

Child maltreatment takes the following forms (Berk, 2015): 1) physical abuse: assaults on children, such as kicking, biting, shaking, punching, or stabbing, that inflict physical injury. 2) Emotional abuse: acts that could cause serious mental or behavior disorders, including social isolation, repeated unreasonable demand, ridicule, humiliation, or terrorizing. 3) Neglect: failure to provide for a child's basic needs, in terms of food, clothing, medical attention, education, or supervision. 4) Sexual abuse: fondling, intercourse, and other form of sexual exploitation.

It's People who should give love, attention and fulfill the needs in children in some

cases become the person who perform child maltreatment. It happen more often danalso alarming. Based on data from The Center of Children Empowerment and Protection Riau Province (P2TP2A) the number of child maltreatment in KepulauanMeranti Regency keep increasing about 3%per yearbut most cases go unreported.

The children as victim of maltreatment will show the sign that can be observe in baby and toddler, such as attachment problems, aggressiveness towards friends and care taker, also unresponsiveness to positive behavior. Preschool children will show the physic/mental aggressiveness, abusive behavior, socially unmatre behavior if compare to children who is not experienced child maltreatment, they also tend to play solitaire or observing from distance. (Couchenour& Chrisman, 2008). Merrick &Latzman (2014) suggest that child maltreatment will cause problems in:physical health, cognitive development, academic achievement, emotional and behavior and condition.

The objective of this research is to describe the child maltreatment performed by mother in form of emotional abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse and neglect. Identification of child maltreatment form is crucial in order to have information about what really happen in mother-child relation in low income family and to help find ways to prevent it.

Methodology

The methodology used is descriptive quantitative approach to give information and to describe the form of child maltreatment performed by mother in Kepulauan Meranti Regency. Sample for this research are 70 mothers from low income family (less than Rp. 1.000.000 per

month) who had young children age 0-8 years old. Sampling method used is cluster sampling (Area Sampling). Area sampling choose sample of mother from four district: Alai, Sesap, Rangsang Bantan. Instrument to collect data based on Berk’s (2006) indicators of child maltreatment form: 1) emotional abuse, 2) physical abuse, 3) sexual abuse and 4) neglect. For data analisis, score percentage of each indicators is a result of comparing ideal score and actual score.

Result and Discussion

A. Result

Data Description

1) Child Maltreatment Indicators

Child maltreatment consist of four indicators: emotional abuse, physical abuse, neglect and sexual abuse.

Figure 1. Graph of Child Maltreatment Indicators

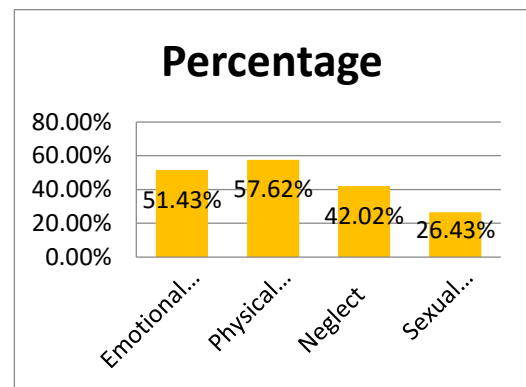
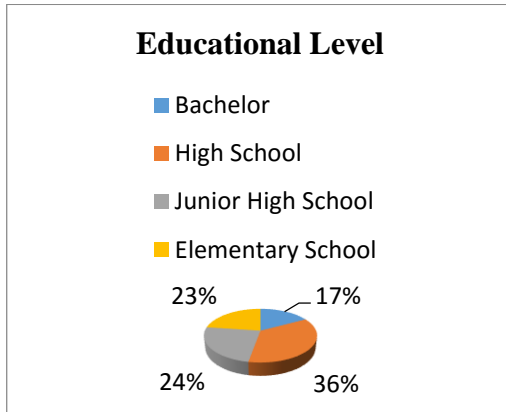


Figure 1. show that the physical abuse is 57,62%, verbal abuse is 51,43%, neglect is 42,04% and sexual abuse is 26,43%.The highest percentage is physical abuse and sexual abuse had the lowest percentage.

2. Mother’s Educational Level

Figure 2. Graph of Mother’s Educational Level

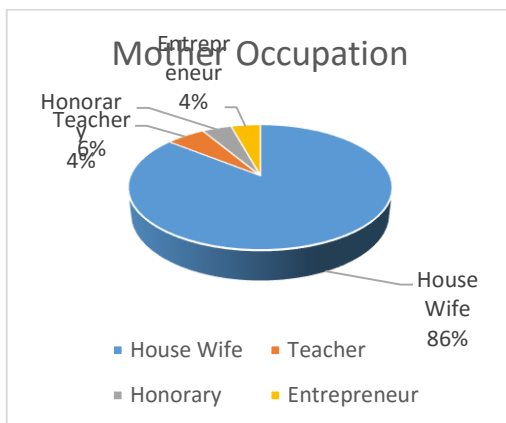


From 70 respondent, there are 17% mother who had bachelor degree, 36% mother who had finished high school, 24% mother who had finished junior high school and mother who only finished elementary school 23%.

Form Figure 2, it can be conclude that most of mother as respondent in this research had finished high school (36%) and only 17% got the bachelor degree.

3. Mother Occupation

Figure 3. Graph of Mother Occupation



Based on figure 3, 70 mother who take part as respondent are 4% honorary, 4% entrepreneur, 6% teacher and 86% house

wife. Most of mothers are house wife who depend on their spouse for family income.

B. Discussion

Physical abuse had the highest percentage and it means it is the most often kind of abuse that mother do to their child. Physical abuse includes assaults on children, such as kicking, biting, shaking, punching, or stabbing, that inflict physical injury. Infact, it might harm children not only in physis, but also emotionally. Shay and Knutson concur that maternal depression is a risk factor for child abuse and neglect, though they find that it is not so much depression as the irritability that accompanies depression that causes mothers to be physically abusive (2008).

Mother who had struggle with a lot of house hold things and lack of money to spend for family needs, might live a stressfull live. When families grow up in poverty they are more likely to be faced with multiple stressors that will promote insecure attachments in parent-child relationships and harsher parenting conditions (Conger: 2006, in Wray: 2015). Insecure attachment leads to negative relation between mother and child. A simple wrong behavior of child may cause maltreatment from mother which is not equal to the damage made.

Emotional abuse and neglect also occur in mother-child relation. Barth suggest that parents maltreat their children for many reasons and combinations of reasons. In the past three decades, researchers have identified four common co-occurring issues—parental substance abuse, parental mental illness, domestic violence, and child conduct problems—that are related to parenting and that lead to child maltreatment (2009). Most of mother who

maltreat their child, had problems on their own behavior, lack of emotional control or out of reach from community support.

Hao&Matsueda (2006) reported that mothers' use of harsh punishment and early childhood poverty influenced child behavioral problems (Wray, 2015). If there is no action and policy toward the condition of child maltreatment which keep increasing in numbers, in the future children will have behavior problems such as aggressiveness and delinquency.

36% of mother from the low income family had high school diploma. 24% finished junior high school and 23% finished elementary school. Only 17% got their bachelor degree. According to Wekerle& Wolfe (2003) abusive parents respond to stressful situation with high emotional arousal. And such stressor as low income and education (less than a high school diploma), unemployment, young maternal age, alcohol and drug use, marital conflict, overcrowded living condition, frequent moves and extreme household disorganization are common in abusive home (Berk, 2006). 68% of mother are unemployed house wife. They rely on their spouse to fulfill family needs.

Mother from low income family need support from other member in family also community to help them overcome stress. Ria&Febrialismanto (2015) suggest the parenting and pre wedding education for married couple as solution to prevent child maltreatment. Support from spouse also help mother to be mentally healthy. Jackson (1999) describe that fathers' support can play a protective role in relation to mothers' depression, shielding infants from negative outcomes promoting greater maternal responsiveness to their children (Guterman& Lee, 2005).

Conclusion

From this research it can be conclude:

1. Physical abuse is form of child maltreatment frequently performed by mother from low income family.
2. Educational background affect mother child rearing. The lower education level of a mother, the higher risk of child maltreatment to occur.
3. Low income leads to stressful life and affect mother-child relation. If mother can't overcome the stress, child maltreatment might occur.

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