

PROTECTION CHILD

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The Needs of Community Based Integrated Child Protection in West Java, Indonesia

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ABSTRACT: The high level of violence against children indicated the need for increased child protection. A community-based strategy with participation strength is potential to be developed. Therefore, this research revealed the need for integrated community based child protection development. The aim of this research describes: (a) children's problems; (b) community-based child protection policies, programs and best practices; and (c) child protection development needs. This research is a policy evaluation with qualitative approach through case study in West Java. Participants of this research consisted of representatives: provincial, regency/city and sub-district or village governments; activity managers, children and parents, selected by purposive sampling. Data were collected by in-depth interviews, focused discussions, and documentation studies. The results indicated that the number of children reported to be victims and perpetrators of violence tend to increase, as reported by the Center for Integrated Services Empowerment for Women and Children. Meanwhile, the existing policy has not been enough to support the improvement of the community movement in child protection. Community-based child protection activities are limited and partial. Nevertheless, community-based protection best practices are found in some villages and sub-district communities. Communities perceive the practice has empowered them, changed the various elements of the child's ecological system, and was very useful in preventing and addressing violence against children targeted for services. The practice needs to be developed more integrated.

Keywords: Community-based child protection, integrated services.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Many Indonesian children, including in West Java, are not adequately protected. The Indonesian Child Protection Commission (2014) noted that in 2013 there were 1,615 children who were reported to be victims of violence, and during January to April 2014, there were 622 cases. The total number of victims is estimated to be far greater. Alit et al. (2013) reported the results of a survey in Indonesia in 2013 which estimated that 6.8 million adolescents had experienced violence. Reports on the involvement of children in criminal acts are also high. The Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (2013) reported the number of children who committed crimes in Indonesia in 2012 was 5,358 children.

West Java has a high number of child victims and perpetrators. The Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (2013) reported that West Java is the second level of the province with the number of children victims of the highest crime rates and the fourth rank of provinces with the highest number of offenders.

The research results of the Indonesian Ministry of Social Affairs in collaboration with UNICEF (2010) showed that child protection in Indonesia

until 2009 responds more to cases handled by residential care. Prevention is still very limited. Therefore, the paradigm of child protection policy is changed. The service that was originally a lot of reactive with residential care was changed with continuum care in an integrated system framework. Prevention and response have been formulated into the direction of child protection policy in the 2015-2019 Indonesia National Medium Term Development Plan.

Community-based child protection with the power of empowerment and participation is one strategy that will be developed by the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection. Community-based child protection includes community empowerment and direct service to children and families to prevent or reduce risk factors, increase protective factors, and intervene early (Tomison & Wise, 1999). Community-based child protection services will function well if easily accessible, coordinated, integrated, responsive and anticipatory, using various sources of individual support, families, communities and government, and managed transparently (Perrin et al, 2007). Therefore, this research is important to evaluate existing policies, programs, and practices, to uncover their development needs to be more just. Suharto (2005) argues that the need for

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policy development must be based on evaluation of existing policies in addressing problems. While Reisch and Garvin (2016) argued that social justice concepts expressed and implemented through laws, policy, values, customs, institutions, mores, traditions, and social processes. Social justice concept and implementation corrected if there are gaps.

This research used ecological system, empowerment, and strengths theories. The ecological system theory views the fulfillment of needs, children's problems and their solutions occur in their interactions with the social environment. The environment must have adequate sources of support and service to help children and families (Petr, 2004; Crosson-Tower, 2007). Child service needs must be understood in a broad sociopolitical context (Frost & Parton, 2009). Therefore this research analyzes community-based child protection practices carried out in ecological system.

This research also analyzes empowerment and strengths perspectives implemented in the child protection practice. Empowerment theory emphasize the practice must handling structural barrier, addressing the personal, interpersonal, institutional or political capacity building process to produce greater ability of people to access and control resources (Robbins, Chatterjee, Canda, 2012). While Strength Perspective propose focused on strengths, abilities, and potential rather than problems, deficit and pathologies (Early & GlenMaye, 2000), problem solving focused on hopes of changes, discover and develop strengths and coping capacities (Petr, 2004). That analysis needed for provide foundations for develop child protection to be more equitable.

1.2 Research Question

Research questions submitted: "What is the need for integrated child protection based on community in West Java?" The question includes:

- a. What are the problems with child protection issues?
- b. How the policies, programs and the best practices anticipate or responses child problems for child protection?
- c. How the needs for integrated community-based child protection development?

1.3 Research Purpose

The purpose of this research is to obtain a comprehensive description that outlines the context of community-based policy and child protection needs in West Java. In particular, this research aimed to obtain a concretely comprehensive description of: (a) problems in the issue of child protection; (b) child protection policies, programs and the best practices; and (c) the need for community-based integrated child protection development.

1.4 Benefits of Research

The results of this research provide benefits in providing a foundation for the development of policies, programs, technical guidelines, and community-based integrated child protection tactics. In addition, this research provides references to add scientific explanations about the analysis of community-based child protection policies and practices

2 METHOD

2.1 Research Design

This research is a policy evaluation used qualitative approach. It is correct to be used in this research in accordance with Veterlaus and Higginbotham (2011) noted that qualitative approaches are used to explore the specificity of a policy or program based on the experiences and perspectives of the stakeholders to provide the rich information that needed to improves the quality of policies or program.

This policy evaluation used a case study method focused in the province of West Java and several cities/regencies where best practices are found. These best practices were found in the Sukajadi sub-district of Bandung, the Cibiru Wetan village in Bandung Regency, Gandu village in Majalengka Regency, and the Cibiru village in Cianjur Regency. This research was carried out starting in mid of 2015. The confirmation seminar on research results was carried out at the end of 2015 and early 2016.

2.2 Participants, data sources, and data collection techniques

Participants who became the primary data source in this research included:

- a. Representative of regional device government organizations in the matter of child protection.
- b. Representatives from child service institutions.
- c. The social worker at the relevant program.
- d. Sub-districts or villages government representatives in best practice locations.
- e. The representative of the best implementing team work.
- f. Representatives of parents, children and community members at best practice locations.

Participants were determined by purposive technique. This research also took secondary data from child statistical documents, policies, programs and child protection reports on a community basis. Data from all these sources. Data collection in this research was taken using techniques: in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, and documentation study.

Data quality ensured with credibility, transferability, dependability, confirmability criteria. The credibility ensured with triangulation of techniques

and sources, member checking, seminar of draft the results of the research. Dependability and confirmability ensured with auditing the suitability of the research report with notes or records of data collection. Finally, description about the context of the research becomes the basis for the transferability.

2.3 Data Analysis

Data analysis used qualitative analysis techniques by the Miles and Huberman model. The data analysis began with checking data, summarizing and identifying information units, then categorizing to identifying themes and key issues, finally making interpretations and concluding. Interpretations and conclusions of the results were confirmed to representatives from various segments of participants. Quantitative analysis techniques with statistic descriptive also used for quantitative data, especially from data secondary.

2.4 Etic issues

Research activities are carried out legally with permission from authorized government institutions. The involvement of the informants was done by asking for informed consent. Data collection is carried out in the best interest for children, respecting the dignity of informants, and respecting culture. The researcher guarantees the privacy and confidentiality of the informant's personal data to be unpublished. Researchers also try to minimize risk, protect informants from harm. The researcher sought to maximize the benefits that could be contributed to increasing child protection.

3 RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Result

3.1.1 Problems of Children

Problems in the issue of child protection are highlighted by activist of child protection, especially violence against children, children in conflict with the law, and limited fulfillment of the rights of children with disabilities. The situation of the problems are as follows.

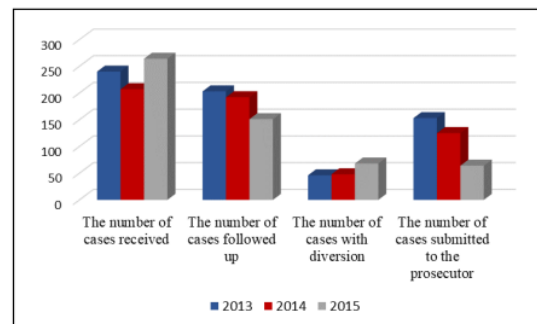
Violence against children. Many institutions noted an increase in violence against children. The results of interviews with representatives of Centre of Women and Children Protection, in Indonesian called *Pusat Perlindungan Perempuan dan Anak (P2TP2A)* West Java revealed that reports of cases of violence against children received by the institution increased from 164 cases in 2014, to 240 cases in 2015. The West Java Child Protection Agency, in Indonesian called *Lembaga Perlindungan Anak* (2015) also noted the number of cases of child abuse reported in the "*Pikiran Rakyat*" during 2014, which

is 400 cases, 83.29% of them are sexual violence, including 52.87% sodomy.

P2TP2A of Bandung city also recorded an increase, from 20 cases in 2013 to 60 cases in 2014 (in the Bandung Office of Communication and Information, 2015). Likewise, the Bandung Family Planning and Empowerment Agency recorded an increase from 8 cases in 2014, to 17 cases during January to October 2015 (Ageng, 2015). While Cianjur Regency *P2TP2A* recorded an increase from 61 cases in 2014, then 110 cases during January to October 2015 (Ramdani, 2015).

Children in conflict with the law. Some children are involved in criminal acts and the most frequently reported cases are the theft. Some children are involved in serious cases so they must be fostered in child-specific development institutions in Indonesian called *Lembaga Pembinaan Khusus Anak (LPKA)*. Of the 196 children who were fostered at LKPA Bandung in 2015, 65 children were involved in sexual violence, 35 children were involved in drug abuse, 33 were involved in murder, and the rest were stolen (Yulianti, 2015). Other child cases reported were court cases, torture, and traffic violations which resulted in accidents.

The number of children in conflict with the law in West Java increased, but the number of cases that were transferred to the public prosecutor's office to be tried dropped. The complete data can be seen in Picture 1.



Picture 1. Graph of the number of AKH actors originating from the West Java Regional Police, 2015

Children with disabilities. In 2012 of 82,160 children with disabilities in West Java, only 2,537 children had access to education (Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection & Central Bureau of Statistics, 2013). The results of interviews with representatives of child service agencies added that many of those who had not access to therapy services, medical and social rehabilitation, and special mobility facilities for them. Even some of them are victims of neglect, exploitation, violence and discrimination.

Risk and protective factors. Many risk factors can affect children's problems. Risk factors of the child's environment include problematic parents and

incapable of caring, family conflicts, peer-group pressure to engage in criminal acts, weak community control, many criminal events, isolation and limited access. Risk factors within the child include: low self-esteem, low social skills, vulnerability due to disability or delays in development, and low resilience.

Protective factors can hinder or reduce risks that cause child problems, and minimize adverse effects when problems occur. These factors can come from within the child and the social environment. A positive situation, the opposite of a risk factor situation becomes a protective factor for children.

3.1.2 *Community-based child protection policies, programs and best practices*

Policy. The Law of the Republic of Indonesia concerning Regional Government regulates that child protection and community empowerment are the obligatory affairs of the central and regional governments. While the obligation of the community to play a role in child protection is regulated in the Child Protection Act. The obligations of the community are also affirmed in the West Java Regional Regulation on Child Protection, the Bandung City Regulation on Organizing Child Protection and the Bandung Regency Regulation on Organizing Social Welfare.

The commitment of local governments to carry out child protection is stated in the Regional Medium Term Development Planning, in Indonesian called *Rencana Pembangunan Jangka Menengah Daerah* (RPJMD) of the province of West Java 2013-2018. The policy direction in the RPJMD is "Increasing protection of women and children from violence and trafficking through prevention, city/regency worthy of children, and strengthening family resilience." Thus, the above policies confirm the West Java and district governments/city is obliged to carry out child protection and facilitate community empowerment so that they can participate in child protection. However, the results of the interviews revealed that the above regulations had not been supported by budget allocation policies and the development of adequate programs for community-based child protection.

Community-based child protection program. Community-based child protection programs in West Java such as Motivator for Family Resilience, in Indonesian called *Motivator Ketahanan Keluarga* (Motekar). Some residents are trained to be motivators to help families. Another program is Community-based Child Care. In this program, some residents are trained to facilitate parents increasing parenting skill. The program used asset-based community development approach with the steps: discovery, dream, design, define, destiny. The program populasi target are focused on parents.

In some regencies/cities of West Java there are also community-based child protection activities from the central government program. These activities are: Community-Based Social Protection and Rehabilitation of Children against Law, in Indonesian called *Perlindungan dan Rehabilitasi Sosial Anak Berhadapan dengan Hukum Berbasis Masyarakat* (PRSABHBM), and the Child Family Communication Forum with Disability, in Indonesian called *Forum Komunikasi Keluarga Anak dengan Kedisabilitas* (FKKADK). That activities are part of the Child Social Welfare Program of the Ministry of Social Affairs. In addition, in some places there are also child protection activities based on the community from Save the Children's program on Community Based Child and Family Support Center, in Indonesian called *Pusat Dukungan Anak dan Keluarga* (PDAK) *Berbasis Masyarakat*. The last practice focused on strengthening of family care and the reduction of the risk of giving children to residential care. Moreover, there is the practice from the social work education program.

The covered child protection practices is still very limited. The practice conduct partially, focused on certain different issues or population targets. Nevertheless, among existing practices, found best practices that are potentially developed.

Community-based child protection best practices. The discussion results of the parties raised the criteria for best practices: (a) felt by the community to increase their participation, (b) empower them in organizing joint activities, (c) have activities and produce changes in various elements of the social environment of children and to children, and (d) felt very beneficial by the wider community.

The best practices found include: (a) FKKADK in Sukajadi sub-district in Bandung city, (b) Community based Disability Child Protection in Cibiru Wetan village, Bandung Regency, (c) PRSABHBM in Gandu village, Majalengka Regency, and (d) PDAK in Cibinong Cianjur Regency. These practices began between 2012 and 2013.

The initial step in community-based child protecting management is preparation coordination, including site selection, placement of facilitator or community worker, and socialization to the location of activities. While the process of activities in the community generally contains:

- a. Initial: making an agreement.
- b. Organizing: formulating the structure to organize activities and network patterns.
- c. Team building: strengthening capacity of team work gradually and sustainably.
- d. Implementing: making and implementing child protection activities covers: participatory data collection and assessment, participatory planning, implementation plan of prevention and case handling with resources mobilization, evaluations

that integrated with next assessment and planning.
 e. Administrating: recording, documentation, and reporting (activities and finances) although very simple.

The process is carried out varied, developing from the results of the stakeholder interaction.

Teams in four locations also varied, in Sukajadi came from families, while in Cibiru Wetan apart from the family also community leaders. The team in Gandu and Cibinong came from representatives of local organizations and community leaders from parts of the region. The team works voluntarily on the basis of caring and social responsibility. The structure of the team generally consists of the chairman, secretary, treasurer, and sections. The various sections are adjusted according to the category of purpose and or field of service, as well as service support.

The purpose of child protection activities is formulated in a participatory manner. The practices generally aim to prevent and case response, as well as improve children's welfare. The purpose reaches through increasing community participation, responsibility and ability of parents to care for children, as well as children's and family access to services. Therefore, the target of change from that activities is not only children and families, but a wider social environment. Examples of these various activities can be seen in the following Picture 2.



Picture 2. Mapping of community-based child protection activities in Gandu Village 2015

Child protection activities in the community are carried out with the support of various sources in networks that are built inside and outside the community to the city/regency level. The source of activity funds comes from the carrier of programs and donations from the community and the company. One practice gets funding assistance from the local government through synergy with other programs and the allocation of funds for these activities. Technical support in the best practice included periodic and sustainable training and meeting supervise.

Various activities felt by the community are very useful, have increased public awareness and participation, increased the role of parents and families, and the ability of children to protect themselves.

The community acknowledges that there is an increase in the fulfillment of children's rights, a decrease in the incidence of violence against and by children, and the handling of cases is better for children.

3.1.3 the need for integrated community-based child protection development

The results of the discussion revealed that although child protection activities were felt to be very useful, the community realized there were limitations to the activity. Limitations identified include:

- Limitation of focus causes children to be out of focus and their families not helped.
- Work teams find it difficult to meet service demands outside of focus and outside the region.
- The range of community-based child protection programs is very limited in a few places.
- Support from local and district/city governments for the development of capacity and funding is still very limited.
- Legality support from the local government against the work team has not been accompanied by a policy of adequate resource allocation due to regulatory constraints.
- The work team must work hard to access supporting of fund, information and education materials, and ease of referral services.
- The heavy workload of teamwork can interfere to their other roles in the family.
- The recording, reporting of activities, and information management are still limited to being an obstacle to accountability.
- Limited funds, equipment, information and educational materials, team capacity, and role disruptions can interfere with the sustainability activities.
- The involvement of children in the team management is still very limited.
- There are no guidelines that can facilitate the team management to carry out activities or facilitate local government officials to implement programs in other regions.

Participant hopes changes and believe that the limitations can solve with mobilize existing resources. The limitations, hopes of changes, and that believe has indicate needs of community protection development.

3.2 Discussion

Founding of limitations of budgeting policy, program, and technical support has contribute to capacity limitations of existing community-based child protection practice. The achievement of existing community based practices is not optimal because it is still partial, less integrated and coordinated; limited in the management of financial resources,

equipment, information, and educational materials, work teams, and outreach. These findings are in line with the opinion of Perrin et al (2007) about the functional factors of the services system.

This research further explains that no matter how best practices address a variety of risk factors, and protective factors at the individual, family, community and institutional levels in prevention or response cases, when they have very limited coverage will be able to stem or reduce children's complaints. The limited range of services has resulted in many children and family not being able to access help to guarantee protection and welfare.

The existing policies, program, and activities were inadequate in realizing the goal of child protection social justice which gives equal opportunities to all children to fulfill their right, free from various violations of right to realize welfare in accordance with human dignity. There is a gap between the purpose of justice and its implement. Therefore, in line with the opinion of Reisch and Garvin (2016), the gap arises the need and encourages changes in attitudes, improvements in policies and practices to reduce and resolve existing problems. Of course the commitment of policy makers and governance capacity contribute to producing these changes.

The findings of best practices have also proven that changes in various elements of a child's ecological system are effective in reducing risk factors and strengthening protective factors in preventing and overcoming child problem. The best practices recognized by the community have accelerated and increased the access of children and families to the services needed. Strengths in best practices provide evidence that demonstrates the great potential of community-based child protection strategies. Nevertheless, the limitations of policies and the realization of support for the development of human resources, financing, equipment, information and educational materials, can hinder the sustainability of activities.

The implication of this research have contributed to developing child protection policies, programs and practices. Policies that prioritize the use of child protection strategies based on society are very strategic because they have the power to empower, increase participation, and become a gateway to access to various sources of professional support and services. Therefore, the use of this strategy needs to be encouraged to become a national scale program.

Advocacy efforts are needed to develop these policies and programs. Advocacy is also needed to develop regulations that can encourage provincial, regency/city, sub-district and sub-district governments to implement and allocate funds for the program.

The results of this research that found the best practices have contributed to the preparation of technical guidelines so that it can facilitate in starting, evaluating, and maintaining the sustainability of this

child protection practice. The results of this research have also provided references for the development of practice. The results of this research also provide an explanation that community-based strategies increase participation thereby increasing support and expanding the coverage of child protection. The use of this strategy will be effective if the community is empowered so as to be able to be organized and sustainable in managing various resources to improve various elements of the child's ecological system that contribute greatly to protecting children.

¹ This research has become a part of contributing to the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection in the formulation of model and guidelines for integrated community-based child protection. Implementation of these technical policies has been tested, accepted and implemented in 136 villages of 68 municipal/regencies in 34 province, even some province or regencies have replicated in other locations.

4 CONCLUSION

The Integrated Community-based child protection strategies have the potential to be developed because they have empowering power, increase participation, and become a gateway to access to various sources of support and professional services. The management of various resources in implementing this strategy to produce material activities in various elements of the child's ecological system greatly determines the success of child protection. Therefore, the implementation of an community-based integrated child protection strategy needs to be developed extensively, becoming a program in the national scale that is expressed in all villages.

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