

**Research Article**

# Community-Based Integrated Child Protection Policy during the Covid-19 Pandemic in Palangka Raya

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**Abstract.**

Child Protection is all activities to ensure and protect the children and their rights to live, grow, develop and participate optimally by human dignity, and protect from violence and discrimination, including the most vulnerable groups of violence. The Covid-19 pandemic provides an excellent opportunity for violent behavior against children. Local governments are obliged to guarantee the implementation of prevention of violence against children and support the national policy on prevention, which is implemented through Community-Based Integrated Child Protection. Community-Based Integrated Child Protection is a government program that empowers the community to play a role in the program, thereby being accepted by the community. This article also examines the factors that cause violence against children during the Covid-19 in Palangka Raya and efforts to prevent it. Parents' unpreparedness to adapt to changes in routine during the pandemic, changes in children's learning schemes, and family economic pressure due to the pandemic further exacerbates parents' psychology. Meanwhile, parents' knowledge in childcare is relatively minimal- thus, the child is in a position prone to violence. Prevention efforts can be started by strengthening the role and function of the family, then strengthening the role of schools in providing understanding to parents about the importance of educating children without violence, and strengthening the role of religious institutions and community institutions at the local level to provide education on child protection. In addition, family economic empowerment is also important.

**Keywords:** Covid-19; parents' knowledge; child protection

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## 1. Introduction

The Covid-19 Pandemic is expected to be a momentum to increase the awareness of all elements of the nation towards the fulfillment of rights and special protection for children. Various efforts have been made by the Government, namely through the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection in optimizing child protection efforts during the Covid-19 Pandemic, one of which is by strengthening the role of the Community through the Community-Based Integrated Child Protection movement.

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The Covid-19 Pandemic has had the worst impact, namely the increased vulnerability of children to become victims of violence. Data collected through the Online Information System for the Protection of Women and Children (SIMFONI PPA) on January 1 - November 6 2020, there was an increase in the number of cases and the number of children who became victims of violence. Before the Pandemic, there were 1,888 girls who were victims of violence, after the Pandemic this figure increased to 5,242 girls. For boys, the number is not as much as for girls, but it is still increasing, where before the Pandemic there were 997 boys who became victims of violence, after the Pandemic increased to 2,616 children.

The causes of violence against children during the Covid-19 Pandemic are:

1. Since the emergence of the Covid-19 case, the Government has issued a Large-Scale Social Restriction (PSBB) policy as an effort to break the chain of Covid-19 transmission. The PSBB is followed by a policy of studying, working, and worshiping from home. The consequence of this policy is the increasing intensity of children and parents to interact directly every day.
2. Changes in routine and unpreparedness of parents and children in adapting to current conditions will trigger conflicts between family members.
3. The feeling of being tired of always being at home and the limited social interaction with the Community are the initial triggers for violence against children.
4. Restrictions on activities in public spaces also have an impact on people's incomes, especially the lower middle-class economy.
5. Economic pressure is further exacerbated by cases of layoffs due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Meanwhile, economic pressure during the Covid-19 Pandemic tends to increase due to panic buying by a group of people and the behavior of hoarding goods which has an effect on rising prices for goods, including basic necessities (icjr.or.id, April 14, 2020).
6. Changes in the family's economic conditions worsen the psychological condition of parents. A mental health survey conducted by the Association of Indonesian Mental Medicine Specialists (PDSKJI) since March 2010 in 31 provinces with 5,661 participants showed that 68% of participants experienced psychological problems (gatra.com, October 14, 2020). In this condition the child is in a position prone to violence while the condition of the child is powerless to fight. Meanwhile access to protection, both informal (relatives, friends, neighbors or teachers) and formal (protection services or social services) is limited during PSBB.

7. In the field of education, the Covid-19 Pandemic has forced the learning system in schools to be carried out online or known as Distance Learning (PJJ). Distance Learning (PJJ) is a new thing for children and parents and even for the world of national education. Not all parents have sufficient knowledge to understand the learning scheme, while parents are required to accompany their children during distance learning. Likewise, distance learning support facilities such as gadgets, internet quota, and signals are also felt to be burdensome for parents in the midst of economic pressure due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. As a result, when children are judged to be less able to master the distance learning process, parents are unable to control their emotions. This is where the opportunity for violence against children emerges.
8. Another cause is the lack of knowledge of parents in parenting patterns. Parenting patterns are the dominant factor that influences the formation of children's character. The Covid-19 Pandemic requires parents to replace their role as teachers while at home. While there are still many parents who do not understand their child's development, children's needs, and child psychology. This condition is increasingly difficult because during the Covid-19 Pandemic, there are many things that need adjustment, including adjustments in child care. This has the potential to place parents in an emotionally vulnerable condition and children with their helplessness often become victims of violence from their parents.

## 2. Research Method

In the research on Community-Based Integrated Child Protection Policy During the Covid 19 Pandemic in Palangka Raya City, the reason the researcher used a qualitative approach was first to describe the empirical reality behind the phenomena in the field in depth. Second, the problems to be solved by researchers can be approached according to their substance, Third the data collected can be used as material for theory development, Fourth. The results of data analysis generated from qualitative research in the form of concepts and theories can be directly used for the benefit of policy development.

## 3. Results and Discussion

Protecting children from violence, including during the current Covid-19 Pandemic, requires massive community involvement. The Ministry of Women's Empowerment and

Child Protection seeks to maximize the role of the Community through the community-based integrated child protection movement as one of the community movements in an effort to detect early threats or cases of violations of the fulfillment of children's rights and protection, including threats due to the Covid-19 outbreak.

Since 2016, the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection has initiated the establishment of Community-Based Integrated Child Protection in 136 villages spread across 68 regencies/cities and 34 provinces. In 2020, at the initiative of the Community and the Regional Government, Community-Based Integrated Child Protection was recorded to have been applied in 1,921 villages spread over 342 regencies/cities throughout Indonesia.

Besides through Community-Based Integrated Child Protection, the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection has also optimized child protection efforts during the Covid-19 Pandemic through various ways, namely issuing 5 (five) Special Protocols on Child Protection consisting of:

1. Cross-Sectoral Protocols for Children Who Need Special Protection in a COVID-19 Pandemic Situation;
2. Protocols for the Protection of Children with Disabilities in the Covid-19 Pandemic Situation;
3. Protocol for Handling Child Victims of Violence in a Covid-19 Pandemic Situation;
4. Parenting Protocols for Children and Parents of OTG, PDP, Confirmed and Died of Covid-19;
5. Protocol for the release and release of children through assimilation and integration, release of prisoners, suspension of detention and free release.

To support the optimization of child protection efforts in the midst of the Covid-19 Pandemic, there are several things that can be recommended for the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection, namely:

1. Strengthening the role of schools in providing understanding to parents about the importance of educating children without violence and strengthening the role of religious institutions and community institutions at the local level to provide child protection education. In addition, family economic empowerment is also important
2. Massively broaden and increase the coverage of villages and sub-districts in the PATBM movement, as an effort to accelerate the handling and recovery of the

Covid-19 Pandemic in Indonesia in general and in particular to guarantee and protect children's rights from various forms of violence and child crimes

3. Encourage the establishment of the Regional Technical Implementation Unit for the Protection of Women and Children (UPTD PPA), to ensure the fulfillment of services for women and children who experience violence, discrimination and other civil and criminal problems.
4. Strive to provide incentives in the form of increasing budgets, providing assistance and/or grants to local governments for provinces and districts/cities that have successfully met development targets and/or have received achievements and awards in the field of empowering women and children, so that the implementation of programs and policies in the field of Women's empowerment and child protection can be maximized and encourage other provinces and regencies/cities to achieve the same achievement.
5. To hasten the issuance of a Government Regulation concerning Procedures for the Implementation of Chemical Castration, Installation of Electronic Detection Devices, Rehabilitation, and Announcement of the Identity of Perpetrators of Sexual Violence against Children (RPP Kebiri).
6. Conduct continuous socialization to expand community involvement and participation in various programs and policies in the field of women's empowerment and child protection, through PATBM (Community-Based Integrated Child Protection, Public Participation for the Welfare of Women and Children (PUSPA), Welfare Empowerment Mobilization Team Family (PKK), P2TP2A (Integrated Service Center for Women and Children Empowerment), Community Radio, Kawan Anak Journalists, Child Care Community Institutions Network, and APSAI (Indonesian Friends of Children Company Association).
7. Synergize, collaborate and involve Committee III DPD RI in implementing programs and policies of the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection in the regions.

## 4. Conclusion

Children are a group that is vulnerable to violence. The COVID-19 pandemic has further stimulated violence against children. Restrictions on activities outside the home increase the interaction between parents and children while parents. Based on these factors,

efforts to prevent violence against children can start from the family as the child's closest environment. It is necessary to strengthen the role and function of the family so as to create a conducive climate in the family. Parents also need to increase their knowledge in terms of child care by adjusting parenting patterns during the Covid-19 pandemic. Then schools play a role in providing understanding to parents about the importance of educating children without violence. During Distance Learning, communication and collaboration between parents and schools must be carried out intensely. Furthermore, religious institutions and community institutions at the local level play a role in socializing child protection to the community accompanied by an integrated community-based child protection movement. Economic improvement through family economic empowerment is also important in preventing violence against children. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the government needs to ensure a scheme for meeting basic needs for vulnerable groups during PSBB. In addition, the government in this case the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection as the front line in child protection must synergize with all relevant parties to ensure that children still have the right to study and the best services during the Covid-19 pandemic. Meanwhile, Commission VIII of the DPR RI through its supervisory function plays a role in providing ongoing support to government policies in preventing violence against children

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