

# IDENTIFICATION OF SOCIAL SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AS SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AT THE SURABAYA EMBUN FOUNDATION

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## ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** Violence is an act that can cause an injury and affects other people both physically and psychologically as opposed to the law. Violence can be considered a crime. In general, violence targets groups or parties that are vulnerable. Children are part of vulnerable groups to violent behavior, including child abuse. According to DPKP3A data, there are 38 children victims of sexual abuse. **Methods:** This research aims to describe the existence of social support for children as victims of domestic violence at the Embun Surabaya Foundation. This foundation focuses on protecting and empowering children and women who are victims of exploitation and violence. This research used a qualitative approach with phenomenology methods supported by data collection using in-depth interviews and observations. The informants of this research were five people consisting of four girls who were victims of domestic violence and one supervisor staff at the Surabaya Embun Foundation. **Result:** The results indicate that children as victims of domestic violence at the Embun Surabaya Foundation receive excellent social support in informational support, emotional support, appraisal support, and instrumental support. These four supports have brought victims to accept themselves and increase their confidence. **Conclusion:** The four supports are given by their families (families that are not included in the perpetrators of violence) and the staff of the Embun Surabaya Foundation.

**Keywords:** Violence, child abuse, social support

## INTRODUCTION

Family has become a fundamental base of children's education as an innate core group. Inherent education from parents is considered a foundation for children to be used in the social stages of life and become their basic knowledge before entering the society full of diverse languages, ethnics, and cultures (Khairuddin, 2008).

The education provided by parents could be in the form of morality and ethics or compassions to express themselves as social beings. Everything that the children do might be likely to affect the family otherwise. Family, parents, in particular, may play a role in the concept of behavior, personality, morality, knowledge, and thought of the children. However, parents might likely make mistakes while engaging in roles that may cause uncertainty and disruption in children's psychological

condition. These mistakes are assumed to be in the form of violence or child abuse. There are many forms of child abuse, including physical abuse (pinching and hitting), emotional abuse (threatening, frequently shouting, mocking, and constantly swearing), sexual abuse (rape and viewing child pornography), and neglect. Child abuse can be seen as a punishment method by parents. It is assumed that parents give the child punishment to stop bad behavior that does not reflect the social value and teach discipline (Lestari, 2012). Lestari stresses that some parents, but not all, still apply punishment as a method to teach discipline to the child. Withholding pocket money, giving a silent treatment, and spanking or paddling are some examples of punishment (Hapsari et al., 2016).

According to WHO, violence in general means the use of physical force and

power, threats or actions against oneself, individual or group of people (community) that cause bruises or trauma, death, psychological damage, developmental disorder, and deprivation of rights (Bagong, 2010).

Violence against children or child abuse is considered an act of injuring physically or psychologically, sexual harassment, negligence of treatment, or child abuse on children under the age of eighteen by a caregiver that is marked by threatened health and welfare of the child. (Gelles, 1976)

Komisi Perlindungan Anak Indonesia (The Indonesian Child Protection Commission), mostly known as KPAI, points out that child abuse increases constantly each year. This can be seen from monitoring results done by KPAI, which has shown that there was a significant increase in child abuse from 2011 to 2014. It was noted that there were 2178 cases of child abuse in 2011, 3512 cases in 2012, 4311 cases in 2013, and 5066 cases of child abuse in 2014 that occurred in Indonesia (Setyawan, 2014).

On the other hand, in a journal article entitled the Institute of Child Protection (LPA)'s Role in Assisting Children Against Violence in the span of 2013 to 2015 in East Java, LPA found that complaints filed on child abuse have decreased. The most occurred abuse with 44% of cases is social abuse, including neglect and child exploitation. The second highest cases are sexual and physical abuse, with 26% of cases, while a few cases, around 3.6%, are psychological abuse. In 2013, the number of social abuse cases reached 66%, while in 2014, most cases of child abuse that occurred were physical abuse, with around 53.7%. The number of cases of child abuse occurs more than the number of other child issues. (Setyawan, 2014).

Based on data provided by Dinas Pengendalian Kependudukan Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Perlindungan Anak (Surabaya Child

Protection and Empowerment and Population Control Agency), shortened as DPKP3A Surabaya, there were 132 children victims of sexual abuse in 2017. There were 38 cases of child sexual abuse that occurred until February 2018. Meanwhile, according to another source, Unit PPA (Unit Perlindungan Perempuan dan Anak) Satreskrim Polrestabes Surabaya or the Women and Children Protection Unit Polrestabes Surabaya, it has been revealed that Unit PPA investigated around 52 cases of child sexual abuse in 2017 while in January and February 2018, 5 cases of child sexual abuse were handled.

Violence against children by a parent may cause a negative impact. Talbot (cited in Sachs-Ericsson, Medley, Kendall-Tackett, & Taylor, 2011) points out that the negative impact of child abuse can include physical or psychological damage. Physical damage may result in bruises or even worse, permanent disability. Furthermore, psychological damage may develop mental health problems later in the child's life.

The act of domestic violence against children might be the result of technological advances where negative influences affect the individual in a family. Mass media, including social media, may interfere with the harmony of a family, particularly in the development of a child. This interference might be caused by neglect by parents where they were too occupied with social media life. It may also affect the child psychologically, triggering insecurity, depression, feeling inferior, and being isolated by friends.

Child abuse is opposed in Indonesia, according to The Child Protection Act no.35 of 2014. It can be inferred that the legislation was enacted to improve and achieve full protection on the child, including the health status of a child, against any assault. Article 44 of The Child Protection Act states that national and regional governments are required to provide facilities and organize health supports for children so that each of them can obtain an optimal degree of health

starting from the mother's womb. Moreover, Article 45 of the act explains that parents and family are obligated to be responsible for maintaining and caring about the health of the children.

Social support could be one of the useful contributions consisting of verbal and non-verbal informative assistance, behavioral and material direct assistance through a close social relationship that can relay the sense of love, care, and value. Social support can be obtained from a group of people that can create a sense of security in life, which increases self-confidence, skills, and strategies in dealing with problems. This group of people includes family, particularly parents, friends, spouses, social environment, and people they trust (Brenzitz, 1982). In other words, social support can be obtained from different sources (Sarafino, E. P., & Smith, 2012).

This research aims to show that social support for children as a victim of domestic violence exists through qualitative research on Embun Surabaya Foundation or Yayasan Embun Surabaya.

## METHODS

A phenomenology method was employed and supported by data retrieval from in-depth interviews and observation. The subjects were parts of the Embun Surabaya Foundation. The survivors of domestic child abuse were chosen as the key informants, whereas the supervisor staff of the Embun Surabaya Foundation was selected to provide supporting statements of the key informant.

House, a prominent researcher in this field, identifies four social support dimensions: informational support, emotional support, appraisal support, and instrumental support. This statement is mentioned in Smet's book of Psychological Health and Sarafino's Book titled *Health Psychology: Biopsychosocial interactions* (7th ed.)

Embun Surabaya Foundation is a Non-Government Organization that focuses on protecting and empowering children and women. Not only serves as a place of protection and empowerment, but Embun Surabaya Foundation also functions as a place to accommodate, foster, and offer lessons for children and women who are experiencing a crisis in their lives. Embun Surabaya Foundation was selected for its reputation as a shelter for the abuse victims. Five informants consisting of four key informants and one supporting informant were chosen for this research. Primary data in this research were collected through in-depth interviews with the informants and observation of the facilities to obtain superficial information related to several things that became the focus of the research. Other than that, literature reviews were conducted as secondary data.

The research was undertaken using an interview guideline. The guideline effectively gathered lots of information and several vital points needed for the research. Ethical approval for this research protocol was obtained from the Research Ethics Committee of Faculty of Dental Medicine Universitas Airlangga on 29 Mei 2019 with certificate number 290/HRECC.FODM/V/2019.

## RESULTS

The following are the results that can be seen from the existence of social support from professional helpers, including psychologists and doctors, and several social support aspects and supporting aspects in the form of the characteristics of the informants.

### Characteristics of Key Informants

These 4 survivors of child domestic violence in Embun Surabaya Foundation as the key informants were interviewed to collect the data. It is further mentioned in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Characteristics of Key Informants

IK	Initial	Age	Educational Level
IK1	TAA	17	High School
IK2	SAO	17	High School
IK3	TN	10	Elementary
IK4	MLS	20	Elementary

The characteristics of the children abuse survivors as the key informant range in age between 16 to 20 years old. Key informant was determined based on the recommendation given by the supervisor staff of Embun Surabaya Foundation with several predetermined criteria. The highest level of education of the key informants is high school (SMA) and the lowest is elementary school.

It can be taken from the data that 4 key informants experienced variety of domestic violence. These interviews may support the result of the research that were conducted.

**Table 2.** Description of Answers Regarding the Type of Violence Experienced by Key Informants

IK	Informational Support
IK 1	Guidance regarding future plan
IK 2	Personal advice on education
IK 3	Suggestion regarding changing bad behavior
IK 4	Guidance regarding future plan

*“Once my friend invited me to meet a man that I never knew. From that moment, I knew that she was a call girl. Since I was frequently asked to meet this man, I became close to him.” (TAA, 17)*

*“It happened because of a certain issue, ‘pergaulan bebas’(literally, free socializing) with my date. It was sexual abuse.” (SAO, 17)*

*“A physical abuse by my father and teacher” (MLS, 20)*

*“We reconstructed entire crime scenes where gun, sickle, rope and some stuff used by my dad to abuse me were there.” (MLS, 20)*

Looking at the Table 2, it is apparent that the first key informant experienced trafficking before going to Embun Surabaya Foundation. The second key informant experienced sexual abuse. The third key informant experienced physical abuse while the last key informant experienced trafficking, physical and sexual abuse.

### Informational Support

Based on the in-depth interview conducted, it can be concluded that the key informants received informational supports when staying in Embun Surabaya Foundation.

**Table 3.** Informational Support for Key Informants in Embun Surabaya Foundation

IK	Question Category	
	Initial	Type of Violence
IK 1	TAA	Trafficking
IK 2	SAO	Sexual Abuse
IK 3	TN	Physical Abuse
IK 4	MLS	Trafficking, Physical and Sexual Abuse

*“An advice or guidance was given. They said that I am not wrecked yet. I still have my own future as long as I won’t be back to my dark past. As long as I open the new page, I can live this life to the fullest. They even said that I can be a great person in the future.” (TAA, 17)*

*“The most unforgettable advice is “when you step outside of Embun and live your life, you can start here again as a trainer, educator, moreover, a good example for your children and kids in here so that they will be a better person.”” (MLS, 20)*

*“The most remarkable advice that I got is related to school problem. That we should focus on school, spare time for our children, and do not ever engage with that kind of social life again (free socializing or ‘pergaulan bebas’).” (SAO, 17)*

*“If you decided to step out from Embun, do not ever forget Embun. Change your bad behavior like stealing stuff, lying, and other bad habits. We should be someone greater.” (TN, 10)*

From the in-depth interviews with key informants and a supporting informant, several informational supports were delivered by staffs of Embun Surabaya Foundation, including advice and suggestion that are useful later in life. The answers stated above shows that the survivors have received a significant amount of informational support from the supervisor staff in the Embun Surabaya Foundation that can be helpful for them.

### Emotional Support

Based on the in-depth interview conducted, it can be concluded that the key informants received emotional supports when staying in Embun Surabaya Foundation.

**Table 4.** Emotional Support for Key Informants in Embun Surabaya Foundation

IK	Appraisal Support
IK 1	Being praised for doing homework
IK 2	Being praised and receiving motivation when telling problems
IK 3	Getting compliment
IK 4	Being praised for doing homework

*“I consider the staff here as my parents, my family related by blood. They are very kind and gracious. They let us, children like me, to live here. Some children those undergone problems are allowed to stay here. They teach us a lot of things and share some conversation. Not only sharing, but they are always trying to engage with us until we feel comfortable in here.” (MLS, 20)*

*“They treat me as their own child, as if I was part of their family. They also*

*teach me about life.” (TAA, 17)*

From on the in-depth interviews with key informants and a supporting informant, it is reported that staff of the Embun Surabaya Foundation gave several emotional supports. However, it is apparent that the answers from the key informants do not display proper emotional support from the staff of the Embun Surabaya Foundation. There is not enough evidence of emotional support for the children since the only evidence that can be acquired is a statement that the staff treats them as a family.

### Appraisal Support

Based on the in-depth interview conducted, it can be concluded that the key informants received appraisal supports when staying in Embun Surabaya Foundation.

**Table 5.** Appraisal Support for Key Informants in Embun Surabaya Foundation

IK	Emotional Support
IK 1	Treated as their own child and family
IK 4	Considering the staff as family

*“They give compliment to me, saying that I am smart and do a good job in cleaning. I rarely have a fight with my brother and sister too.” (TN, 10)*

*““Don’t ever give up, don’t ever repeat the old incident again, focus on your future, keep up your spirit, and most importantly, when you are on top, don’t forget about your parents because parents are your everything”, they said. If I already get a job and have enough salary, I’ll definitely give a decent life for my child. Oh, they also like to give compliment when I do my housework such as sweeping the terrace and cleaning the entire house.” (SOA, 17)*

*“You are pretty, it is such a waste if you decided to still socialize with that kind of friends who only give you nothing but loss. You still have enormous potential.” (TAA, 17)*

*“Some of the compliment that I received are, “You are very talented in cooking!”, “You know what? You could just open your own catering and it will be the finest of all.”, “You should also open ‘penyetan’ restaurant! All of the food you cooked are incredible! Evenmore, you make very tasty coffee and tea.” I become all-rounded person in here. Everything is done without anyone’s help including cooking and cleaning.” (MLS, 20)*

From the in-depth interviews with key informants and a supporting informant, it can be seen that the staff of the Embun Surabaya Foundation delivered several appraisal supports, including comforts and the feeling of being appreciated. The answers stated above shows that the survivors have received a significant amount of appraisal support from the supervisor staff in the Embun Surabaya Foundation that can be helpful for them. It may be because of the motivation and compliment given to the children.

### **Instrumental Support**

Based on the in-depth interview conducted, it can be concluded that the key informants received instrumental supports when staying in Embun Surabaya Foundation.

*“They sometimes give pocket money to me” (TAA, 17)*

*“The staff in here sometimes give us money voluntarily from their personal income. Well, I’ll accept it if it is given, but no demand attached.” (SOA, 17)*

*“They sometimes give me from 2 thousand to 5 thousand rupiah.” (TN, 10 tahun)*

*“Mr. D and Ms.R often give me some money. For example, when I go out to buy milk formulas for my child. But now, there is no benefactor anymore.” (MLS, 20)*

There are also statements uttered by the key informant that they receive assistance from the staff while doing their homework.

*“They frequently help us. Well, not only the staff, but the older kids in here like to hand-in-hand help us finishing our homework. Everyone always tries to reach out, such as M and Y.” (TN, 10)*

*“They help us a lot. Something like calculation and other. They often teach my child and research together.” (MLS, 20)*

*“Friends and staff hand-in-hand in taking care of my child when I am busy. Bathing the baby, accompanying while I am doing the housework are the example.” (SOA, 17)*

**Table 6.** Instrumental Support for Key Informants in Embun Surabaya Foundation

<b>IK</b>	<b>Instrumental Support</b>
<b>IK 1</b>	Material and assistance while doing the housework
<b>IK 2</b>	Material support from family
<b>IK 3</b>	Material and assistance while doing the school homework
<b>IK 4</b>	Material and assistance while doing the school homework

From the in-depth interviews with key informants and a supporting informant, several instrumental supports were given by the staff of the Embun Surabaya Foundation that allows the survivors of domestic child abuse to experience a feeling of being helped and not having difficulties facing the task assigned to them. The answers stated above show that the survivors have received a significant amount of instrumental support from the supervisor staff in the Embun Surabaya Foundation that can be helpful for them by giving some assistance to each other. It may be because the staff continuously give out some support both in material and non-material.

## DISCUSSIONS

Key informants of the research have a specific characteristic: children as the survivors of child domestic violence living in the Embun Surabaya Foundation. They have been staying in the Embun Surabaya Foundation for some time and have adapted living. They have also participated in all activities provided by the foundation. The key informants' average age ranges from age 10 to 20 which identified as a teenager. At this age, an individual's mental health and way of thinking may not mature enough and still undergo changes that may affect their mindset. This reason also might result in a more significant potential to become victims of violence.

Another characteristic of the key informants is the type of violence experienced by them. Nevertheless, the type of violence can be considered a factor related to the impact of violence committed by their parents. This statement is in line with Maisah's research under the title of *Psychological Impact on Victims of Domestic Violence in Jambi*. It is stated that children and women are very likely to be the victims of violence (Maisah & SS, 2016). Maisah's research focuses on wives, as the victim, who claimed to receive physical and psychological abuses from their spouses. The impact of the violence is in the form of psychological effects. The effects include lack of concentration at work, doing careless actions, feeling confused by their surroundings, forgetfulness, and insomnia. This negative impact may affect not only wives but also children. Lingering inferior feelings and lacking confidence in front of their friends might be examples of the adverse effects in children.

The research results confirm the existence of social support given by family (who are not the assailant) and staff of Embun Surabaya Foundation. The social support might be able to increase their willingness to be better than before, so they may get through the problems they are facing without any difficulties.

Social support may come from non-professional people, including those around the victims such as family, parents, spouses, and friends. Some professionals are already experts in their fields, such as psychologists and doctors. The social support group can also come from volunteers and those who allow helping people in need of support.

This research seems to be consistent with social support theory by House and Smet that social support is divided into four types, which are informational support, emotional support, appraisal support, and instrumental support (Sarafino, E. P., & Smith, 2012). It can also be concluded that only three types of social support met the criteria of House's theory: informational support, appraisal support, and instrumental support. It might be associated with the key informants' statement, which consists of the evidence of the existence of three types of social supports given by the staff of the Embun Surabaya Foundation.

Another possible explanation for this might be that the staff of Embun Surabaya Foundation unable to deliver proper emotional support for the survivors since the only statement acquired from the interview is that they treat the children as their child. However, the other two statements may be suitable to be considered informational support and material instrumental support.

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## CONCLUSION

This research focuses on two informants: key informants and supporting informants. Children as the survivors of

domestic violence in Embun Surabaya Foundation were chosen as the key informants. In contrast, the supervisor staff of Embun Surabaya Foundation, someone in charge of providing necessities in the foundation, was selected as the supporting informant.

This research shows that children as the victims of domestic violence received social support, including informational support, emotional support, appraisal support, and instrumental support when staying in Embun Surabaya Foundation. These social supports help victims accept themselves, improve self-confidence, and forget their past. However, the emotional support has not yet been fully interpreted by key informants—the results in the imperfect social support expressed by House.

These four social supports were received from family (those not included as perpetrators) and staff at Embun Surabaya Foundation. It has been examined that several impacts were delivered to the children as survivors. These impacts can be in acceptance toward themselves, increasing self-confidence, becoming a better person, and forgetting about the past.

The staff has also delivered several advice and suggestions for the children of the Embun Surabaya Foundation. One of the suggestions is that children, as the survivors, should be able to employ the staff's social support to receive necessary knowledge for later in their life outside of the Embun Surabaya Foundation.

On the other hand, Embun Surabaya Foundation should be able to add some supervisors who are committed enough to dedicate themselves to Embun Surabaya Foundation. The supervisor may guide, supervise, and pay attention to the details of the conditions and needs of the victims later in the foundation.

This research suggests that Embun Surabaya Foundation can manage the existing programs intensively and periodically so that the children can gain extensive knowledge and undertake plenty of creative activities. The intensity of counseling

programs should also be increased, especially the programs related to introducing diseases that can be beneficial spiritually. Increasing the intensity of the counseling programs outside of the foundation might also prefer to let the victims be comfortable complaining about their problems.

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