Volume 7 No 2. April 2023

Received: 1 March 2023 Revised: 27 March 2023 Accepted: 3 April 2023 Published: 28 April 2023

Available online at: http://e-journal.unair.ac.id/index.php/IMHSJ

THE BEHAVIOR OF FULFILLING THE BASIC NEEDS OF EARLY CHILDREN DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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Abstract

Backgrounds: In conditions of uncertainty and anxiety about pandemic conditions, children still have the right to have the opportunity to grow and develop optimally, both cognitively, mentally, and socially. Parents, as the primary caregivers of children at home and with the main responsibility for the growth and development of early childhood children, should meet the basic needs of children's growth and development. The basic needs of children's growth and development consist of 3 main aspects: Asuh, Asih, and Asah. This study aims to analyze parenting behavior to fulfill early childhood growth and development needs during the Covid-19 pandemic. Methods: This research was conducted at Al Amien Jember Kindergarten from August to November 2020. The population in this study is all 282 parents of Al Amien Jember Kindergarten students. The sample size calculation uses the formula from Snedecor and Cochran with a sample size of 72 parents. **Results:** The results showed that most parents with good knowledge (80.56%) and good attitudes (80.56%) had good basic needs fulfillment behavior. The results of statistical analysis using the Spearman correlation test show a significant relationship between parental knowledge (p-value = 0.003) and parental attitudes (p-value = 0.000) with the behavior of fulfilling the basic needs of early childhood. Conclusion: Knowledge and attitudes of parents related to parental behavior in meeting the basic needs of early childhood development. This study contributes to parenting during the COVID-19 pandemic so that children's growth and development remain optimal.

Keywords: COVID-19, early childhood care, fulfillment of basic needs, parent's behavior

INTRODUCTION

Uncertainty and anxiety will make this pandemic a problem for many children and their families. However so, children still own the right to earn a chance to grow and develop optimally, both optimally cognitively, mentally, and socially (Licie Cluver et al., 2020). Parents as the main guard of children at home and those holding responsibility primarily for the growth and development of children age early own obligation to fulfill the need base grow flower child. The basic needs to grow a child consists of 3 main aspects that are "Asuh, Asih, and Asah". The aspect of "Asuh" covers the fulfillment of basic needs such as clothing, food, boards, and access to health services. Whereas the aspect of "Asih" covers fulfillment of psychological need, need of affection, and attachment in a manner psychology with parents or replacement parents. The aspect of "Asah" covers the stimulation from e-ISSN 2656-7806 @Authors.2023



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DOI: 10.20473/imhsj.v7i2.2023.129-141



parent as form study well to improve knowledge (aspect cognitive) as well skills (aspect psychomotor).

Relatively, the basic need that consist of three aspects must be fulfilled by parents and the environment where child grow and develop. Family to be primary environment for child who has biggest role and responsibility to get and provide "Asuh, Asah, Asih" that is needed by child to grow and develop by the milestone of the age. Specifically, in the conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic, all children required to study and play at home as well minimize activities outside the home. Parents have important role to supervise and nurture child during a time of pandemic, particularly in effort protect children infected with the COVID-19 virus.

Parental presence has important impact for the child's grow and development, both on the aspect of health physical ability, cognitive, and social emotional. Parental presence become the best investment for children to support the grow and development of child. (Nicoletti & Tonei, 2020). Parents often think that the basic need that must fulfilled by parent is just economy needs. Other needs such as need emotional needs, psychological needs, and togetherness become the other side of basic needs that must fulfilled by parents. In fact, the majority of parents did not spend quality time with their children, even together at home (Psychology, 2013). During COVID-19 pandemic, most of the parents do activity work from home. So, the parents still carry put their roles and responsibilities in working while at home, and caring for children is limited even though they were together in home.

The preschool period is an important period of the growth and development of children that requires the presence and togetherness of parents and children. Inappropriate parenting patterns for children can impact on the child's psychology. This condition will further effect on the quality of children's growth and development (Shabas, 2016). However, the basic need of "Asih" or compassion is one the basic needs of the children's growth and development. The process of playing with children is a stimulating process to support child's growth and development. Parents need to spare time and to play together with their children, so children feel more comfortable in a manner physique nor psychic (Motataianu, 2015). Parenting process by parents during COVID-19 pandemic in home fulfil the basic needs of child in early age. This process later will contribute to quality of

child's growth and development in the future. So, this study aims to analyze the behavior fulfillment of the basic needs of child in early age during the COVID-19 pandemic.

METHOD

A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted at Al Amien Kindergarten Jember which was one of the biggest Islamic kindergartens in the Jember district. This research was conducted during August-November 2020. Study subjects were 282 parents of early children in Al Amien Kindergarten Jember. The calculation of sample used Snedecor and Cochran formula for cross-sectional study. Based on the formula, the sample size for this research was 72 parents that were selected using simple random sampling. The inclusion criteria for sample were parents who have children age 3-6 years old, living together, and stayed in one house with their children during COVID-19 pandemic. Meanwhile, the exclusion criteria were parents who have children age 3-6 years old with chronic disease and twin children, and unwilling parents.

The independent variables of this research were attitude and knowledge of parents in the fulfillment of basic needs of children in early age, meanwhile the dependent variable was the behavior of parents in the fulfillment of basic needs of children in early age. The instrument used in this research was questionnaire which include parent's characteristic, children's characteristic, parent's knowledge in the fulfillment of basic needs of children, parent's attitude in the fulfillment of basic needs of children, and parent's behavior in the fulfillment of basic needs of children during COVID-19 pandemic. The validity test of the questionnaire conducted on 30 parents, and the result of 23 questions were valid. The reliability test of the questionnaire showed that 23 questions were reliable. The result of knowledge, attitude, and behavior of parents categorized as less, enough, and good.

Data were entered in Microsoft excel spreadsheet and then data were analyzed by univariate and bivariate analysis. The univariate analysis used to describe the characteristic of parents, children, knowledge, attitude, and behavior of the parents in the fulfillment of the basic need of children during COVID-19 pandemic. The bivariate analysis used to analyze the correlation between the

independent variable and the dependent variable by using Spearman correlation test with the level of significance of 0.05 and 95% level of confidence interval. This research was carried out after getting *ethical clearance* from Commission Ethics Faculty of Dentistry, University of Jember with registered number 1172/UN25.8/KEPK/DL/2021, each respondent has given *informed choice*, and *informed consent* before data collection.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Socio-demographic characteristics

Table 1. Socio-demographic characteristics

Variable	Frequency	Percentage		
	(n=72)	(n=100%)		
Mother's age				
26-30 years	15	20,83		
31-35 years	37	51,39		
36-40 years	15	20,83		
41-45 years	5	6,94		
Father's age				
26-30 years	7	9,72		
31-35 years	37	51,39		
36-40 years	15	20,83		
41-45 years	9	12.50		
46-50 years	3	4,17		
>50 years	1	1.39		
Mother's education level				
Intermediate (high school)	4	5.56		
High (College)	68	94.44		
Father's education level				
Intermediate (high school)	13	18.06		
High (College)	59	81.94		
Mother's job				
Not working	26	36,11		
Mother works part time	5	6,94		
Mother works full time	41	56.94		
Father's job				
Civil servant/TNI/POLRI	19	26,39		
BUMN employees	6	8.33		
Employee private	27	37.50		
Contract labor	3	4,17		
Self-employed	17	23,61		
Family income		,		
<umr (<="" 2,355,662.91)<="" idr="" td=""><td>15</td><td>20,83</td></umr>	15	20,83		
>UMR (> IDR 2,355,662.91)	57	79,17		
Sex type of children	•	., .		
Boy	36	50.00		
Girl	36	50.00		
Age child				
4 years	6	8.33		
5 years	46	63,89		
6 years	20	27,78		

Socio-demographic of the respondents in **Table 1** showed that the majority of parent aged between 31-35 years (51.4%). The oldest age of mother is in the range aged 41-45 years, meanwhile the oldest age of father is over of 50 years. Based on education, 66.7% of mothers and 55.6% of fathers have graduated from Diploma 4 or Bachelor Degree. As for the level education highest that is 1.4 % owned by fathers who graduated from S3. Most of the mother is working full time mother (56.9%), while the majority of father work as employee in private sector (37.5%).



Regarding to household wealth status, the majority of parent were high wealth level (79.1%). Most of the child age was at the age of 5 years (63.9%) were 50% of boys and 50% of girl.

Knowledge, attitude, and behavior of parents in the fulfillment of basic needs of early children

Table 2. Knowledge, attitude, and behavior of parent in fulfillment of basic needs in children

Variable	Frequency (n=72)	Percentage (n=100%)	
Knowledge			
Enough	14	19,44	
Good	58	80.56	
Attitude			
Enough	14	19,44	
Good	58	80.56	
Behavior			
Enough	7	9,72	
Good	65	90,28	

Based on **Table 2** showed that majority parent own level good knowledge of 80.6%. Minimum value of parents based on completed questionnaire filled is 39 and value maximum of 50. The average score knowledge parent 44.59 up to of course that majority of parent own good knowledge. Parent's attitude about fulfillment needs base child age early during the pandemic period this research showed that majority of parent own good attitude (80.6%) in fulfillment need base child age early. Although, still there is a number of existing parents in enough category, and there is no parent child age early who have category less. The parent's behavior in fulfillment of basic needs child, the majority of parent were in good category of 90.28%. Maximum score behavior parent in fulfillment need base child age early is 95 with a minimum score of 61.

Analysis Bivariate Knowledge and Attitude Parents with Behavior Parent in Fulfillment Basic Needs of Early Childhood

Table 3. The Relationship between Knowledge and Attitude of Parents with Behavior of Parent in Fulfillment Basic Needs of Children

Variable		fillment Basic ly Childhood	Amount	<i>p</i> -	R
	Enough	Good		values	

	f	%	f	%	f(n=72)	%		
	(n=7)		(n=65)	70				
Knowledge								
Enough	4	5.56	10	13.89	14	19,44	0.003	0.240
Good	3	4,17	55	76,39	58	80.56		0.349
Total	7	9,72	65	90.28	72	100.00		
Attitude								
Enough	4	5.56	10	13.89	14	19,44	0.000	0.464
Good	3	4,17	55	76,39	58	80.56		
Total	7	9,72	65	90,28	72	100		

Based on **Table 3**, showed that the results analysis of correlation knowledge and attitude parents with behavior parent in fulfil of basic needs of child that there is significant relationship between parent's knowledge (p-value = 0.003) and parent's attitude (p-value = 0.000) with parent's behavior in fulfil of the basic need of children during COVID-19 pandemic.

Parents play an important role in raising children and fulfilling the basic needs for the growth and development of "Asah, Asih, Asuh" of children, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. The results of the study showed that the majority of both parents of children worked full time during the COVID-19 pandemic with the income level of the majority families being higher than the district regional minimum wage. Studies showed that the COVID-19 pandemic triggers change condition social and economic in the family, especially in families with levels low family income. Fast transition due to the pandemic trigger height level unemployment and transition work full time at the office become work from home so that the status of work parent during the pandemic was very influential to family relationships and well-being emotional children (Lucie Cluver et al., 2020; Cusinato et al., 2020; Jansen et al., 2021; Taubman-Ben-Ari et al., 2021). Work status transition parent influential to triggering family relationships conflict parents, children, and warmth parents. Stress pressure in the family is related to the function of the family in build connection between parents and children. Pressure high economic burden on bereaved parents work resulted pressure on parents so that trigger pattern foster hard and improve antagonism between parents and children. Family economic stress also triggers happening family system with coercive and predisposed family relationships characteristic coercive or dictatorial (Majumdar, 2021; Wang et al., 2021).



The results of other studies show that working parents from home or apply work from home has more family warmth tall during the COVID-19 pandemic. The work system through work from home helps parent in minimize risk COVID-19 infection and care alone her children during the closing period school, so reduce the resulting stress parenting child during work full time and got direct monitor children during school (Black et al., 2021; Karki et al., 2020). The additional protective factor related to information when work from home was stability finance, security of work, parents own professional autonomy, and timetable flexibility so that can become foundation stability psychological parents in nurturing children during the COVID-19 pandemic. The study results also showed that a number of parents find emotional comfort because use up time more a lot with kids during a pandemic. Although The COVID-19 pandemic has caused stress in family and work professional life consequence transition from work full time become work from home, it can give protection and contribute to family resilience through opportunity to improve warmth and togetherness (Lopez-Bueno et al., 2021). Warmth stable parents become factor protective main to influence negativity and pressure from family stressors for example lost parent job. The family income lower 67% more small its possibility to transition on settings work from home and twice more risky experience lost work compared family by higher level income. Family with levels income more low tend work in the sector services and essential with an hourly income during the pandemic so that the family more prone to termination connection work and leave compared to families working in the sector offices (Russell et al., 2020).

Knowledge become the basic in parenting child age early during a pandemic, especially in effort fulfillment need base child age early (Licie Cluver et al., 2020; Coyne et al., 2020). Most parents (43.1%) parents still some argued that child age early were not yet capable do habituation wash hands with soap and running water. Thus, this habituation is considered only can carried out by older children. During study period from home, by 70.8% parents understand that maximum limit gadget use in children age early is 60 minutes per day. Another 30.6% parents think immunizations in children do not need to be given during the COVID-19 pandemic. Besides that, understanding parent about maintenance

moment child pain is very diverse. 72.2 % parents understand that drug lowering hot can be given to child without ensure temperature body children with thermometer first first. 63.9 % parents ensure condition diarrhea child from consistency feces just consistency the feces softer than often feces, then the can called diarrhea according to understanding part big parent child age early. On the other hand, if child experience wound fuel, 55.6% parents believe use toothpaste, honey or oil will help treat wound burn on child. Study results showed that knowledge parent related provision a conducive environment at home guarantees mental well-being of children and support development optimal children even during the COVID-19 pandemic. Most parent feel tough in times of a pandemic, however knowledge parent related pattern foster positive for children can give great benefits for parents and children (Araujo et al., 2021; Tang et al., 2021).

Parent's attitude in fulfillment basic needs care, love, and care showed that 37.5% parents state agree let children more lots consume snacks compared to fruit. Besides of that, 43.3% parents make *gadgets* as alternative to calm feeling kids bored. With regards to effort health is done parent to child during a pandemic is known that 61.1% parents choose to delay immunize her children during the pandemic. On the other hand, deep effort prevention of COVID-19 by 30.5% of parents more like let children use hand sanitizers compared to wash hands with soap. In addition, 33.3% parents agreed to invite child shopping at supermarkets and 54.2% parents allow children to shake hands with the family. Attitudes and beliefs parents to stay guard children during the COVID -19 pandemic basis and opportunity for parents to empower child to study values concern towards others, think about surrounding community, and educate child through such good habits wash hands, wearing masks, and ethics during cough.

Behavior fulfillment need base child age early to be attention important one of them is 90.3% parents not always give fruit as snack children. Only 4.2% of parents always eat home cooking and never buy food so outdoors. Amounting to 93.1 parents often liberate children in choose a snack when shop at supermarkets. Besides of that, in effort protect children they from spread of COVID-19, 31.9% of parents always provide vitamins for children them. However thereby only 25% of parents do not invite children shop leave the house and 9.7% parents always let



children playing outdoors with friends. Related to health protocol, 27.8% of parents do not allow children shake hands with other people even if it's close family and 61.1 % of parents get used to clean self before hug and meet children after outdoor activities. Behavior parent in managing stress and pressure during the COVID-19 pandemic is very important and is factor key before manage pressure and stress on children. Behavior parent in give understanding and information related to the COVID-19 pandemic to children through appropriate age way and variety challenge can become base optimal parenting. Parents need to be involved children in activity physics and play through activity group or together. Parent must allow children to ask, discuss feeling about the pandemic and pandemic affecting condition they currently through listen carefully. Parent's controlled use from technology, nurturing child still hydrated, schedule habit eat healthy food, maintain routines with schedules, and pushing child do activity physic can beneficial for children's mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic (Black et al., 2021; Neubauer et al., 2021).

Study results showed that pattern supportive parenting autonomy child in a manner positive during pandemic related to welfare better son and fulfillment of the basic need of children so that the level of satisfaction higher and the level frustrated related lower. The results of this study are in accordance with the research previously stressed role important supportive parenting autonomy for well-being kids. An optimum child's growth and development were the consequence from supportive parenting autonomy so that can give feedback to contentment need parent higher in parents. Knowledge and attitude parent is matter important in application of parent's behavior in fulfil the basic need of child during the COVID-19 pandemic, so this study contributes knowledge in child's growth and development specifically during the COVID-19 pandemic for educational practitioner of early age children, and health workers related parenting of child during the COVID-19 pandemic.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Knowledge and attitude of parent related to behavior parent in the fulfillment basic needs of "Asah, Asih, Asuh" in early age children. Parents with good knowledge and attitudes have implications for behavior fulfillment of the basic needs of children. Contribution this study to motivate parents, education practitioner education, and health workers to regularly improve the knowledge and attitude related parenting child during the COVID-19 pandemic so child's growth and development can be optimally though in limitations of the COVID-19 pandemic.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We would like to express our gratitude to the Al Amien Kindergarten Jember, East Java for granting approval our research. We thank the parents of early children in Al Amien Kindergarten Jember, East Java whose frankness and willingness to share their stories of parenting during COVID-19 pandemic. There is no competing interest of authors.

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