

Counselor Challenges on the Prevention of Early Childhood Sexual Violence

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ABSTRACT

Since 2015, sexual violence against women and children reached 757 cases. Parents, families and communities play an important role to prevent children from sexual violence. Bina Keluarga Balita (BKB) by BKKP specifically form to educate parents how to give the best parenting on her family, by introduce sex education to their children. The aims of this article to describe the counselor's challenge on preventing early childhood violence. The data were collected by interviewing 17 Posyandu cadres from low economic status of sub districts : Jatirejo, Plalangan, Pongangan and Sukorejo of Gunungpati Semarang. The results of the study indicate that BKB program did not held in the districts, there is no special material about sex education which can increase the knowledge of parents and community in preventing early child sexual violence, and there is no involvement of counselor / professional to improve the quality of parenting in children. Unbalanced number of cadres to parents and unfinished learned material become an obstacles to support BKB. Society need a counselor participation to community in implementing prevention model of early child sexual violence as supporter of BKB.

Keywords: Counselor challenge, Bina Keluarga Balita, Prevention of Sexual Violence on Early Childhood

INTRODUCTION

In the last three years, the cases of sexual violence in Central Java have shown the rise trend victims of pre-teen, from childhood to teenage. While the most of perpetrators are also teenagers who recognize the victim. Ganjar Pranowo, the Governor of Central Java said that Central Java, including Semarang, that is entered the red zone of violence against women and children. In 2015, the violence against women and children reached 2.466 cases in Central Java, 1.971 of them were women, and 757 cases were sexual violence (Faisol, 2016).

The data of Kakak Foundation, an organization that works for children protection from violence and sexual abuse in Central Java, shows that since 2013, about 55 percent of the victims which is handled are children under 15 years old. Whereas, the majority age of victims are above 16 years old or High School ages before. Meanwhile, Aliansi Peduli Perempuan Sukowati (APPS) in Sragen, which has handled 222 cases of sexual violence against children – violation, rape, porn action, dan *trafficking* – since 2005, it also noted the changing trend of younger victims' age. If the previous, average of violation and rape (pregnancy) which is experienced by the High School ages, at present it is more

dominated by Junior High School, Elementary School, and even pre-school ages. "Just last April, we handled two cases of sexual violence, the victims were childhood; a child 6 years old and 4 years old old," said Sugiarsi, APPS coordinator (Susanto, 2016 through www.rappler.com).

According to records of the organization, the causes of sexual violence are quite diverse, from the matter of romance, pornography, or family. From a survey of 500 teenagers, Kakak Foundation noted more than 80 percent respondents had problems with families, especially with the parents, who make them feel more comfortable with their friends or girl/boyfriends. These children are susceptible to become victims of sexual violence.

Furthermore, the impact of sexual violence against children is very apprehensive. The children of sexual violence victims suffer a serious psychological disorder. Psychological disorder effect from sexual violence or trauma such as; they cannot to trust others, they are fear or worry in having sex, depression, suicide and self-destructive behavior, low self-esteem, loss of self-confidence, sinful, angry, aloof and unwilling to associate with others and eating irregularly. Sexual violence in

childhood also has long-term effects, that is impaired mental health in adult, bad relation with parents, and adaptation problems of children in the next generation (Roberts, R., et.al., 2004; Bennett, S. E., Hughes, H. M., & Luke, D. A, 2000).

Some data show parents and families have an important role in determine the involvement of children as victims or perpetrators of sexual violence. The family structure is correlated quite consistent with risk behaviors in the children. Boraeski, et, al (in Diclemente, R. Santelli, J. & Crosby, R., 2009) found that high interparent conflicts were associated with increased the risk of teenagers doing risk behaviors. The many of time which is spent with the parents affect the less of sexual violence risk in children (Markham, et.al., 2003). The result of the study of teenagers in Indonesia, precisely in Padang by Nursal (2007) states that incomplete family structure has 3,75 times for behave sexual risk than complete family strusture. In children and teenagers who are supervised the parents will delay and even avoid to doing sex.

Babatsikos, G. (2010) research the prevention program that is more focus on parents. The reserach is about how the parents manage and reduce sexual abuse

against children and how attitudes and practices of parents against the risks and prevention of children sexual abuse. Wurtele, S. K (2009) states that in the 21st century, the efforts to prevent sexual violence against children can not only focused on children, but also need family and society involvement.

One of family and society involvement that can be activated in preventing sexual violence is through Program Bina Keluarga Balita by BKKBN which are more specifically can accomodate sex education materials in children. In 1999, the government has launched revitalization of posyandu which focuses on strategy of approach effort health of community resources with access to society socio-cultural is based on the values of tradition and mutual cooperation that has been rooted in the society life towards self-reliance. Posyandu activities are supposed not only focus on effort of fulfillment basic health need and enhancement nutritional status of the society, but also need to pay attention to the quality of psychological health of the society, especially related to assistance in children growth.

In the development, the policy is strengthened by Perpres No 60 year 2013 about Development of Early Childhood of Interatice Holistic, BKKBN condusts

integrative holistic services which is covering all essential need of diverse and interlinked children. These activities include aspects of care, health and nutrition through Posyandu, education aspects through early childhood and the aspect of care through Bina Keluarga Balita. More specifically, Bina Keluarga Balita (BKB) is formed to encourage the improvement of parent / family knowledge and skills in caring, educate and care for toddlers through nursery activities in BKB group (BKKBN, 2014). A set of extension materials has been developed by the BKKBN to convey by the cadres to society through the mechanism and layout of the BKB group extension.

One of theme in parenting is related to sex education. Sex education for children in the form of knowledge about the function of reproductive organs and how to maintain, also knowledge of how to get along healthy and responsible according to religious teachings and society norms (Nugraha & Wibisono, 2016). This education needs to be taught so that children recognize their bodies, respect their bodies and get away from people who intend evil and behave disrespectfully towards the children's body.

This research was conducted in four urban villages located in Gunungpati sub-

district, namely Jatirejo, Plalangan, Pongangan and Sukorejo Sub-districts. The majority of residents in these four urban villages are still in the pre-prosperous family group. Siswanto (2015) said that poverty is the originator of various psychological problems such as violence in children.

Related to sexual violence in children, counselors need to understand first about the mother's knowledge of sexual violence and their correlation with attitudes toward sexual violence. It is expected that by knowing the correlation between knowledge and attitudes toward correlation, counselor can be involved in design of Bina Keluarga Balita model and become counselor on the application of Bina Keluarga Balita material.

METHODOLOGY

This research uses qualitative method to know the implementation of Bina Keluarga Balita Program in four Village in Gunungpati Sub-district which is included in Pre-prosperous region and its challenge for counselor in preventing sexual violence. The research population is mother with toddlers in Gunungpati District Semarang. The sampling method used the samples, it aims with the criteria of posyandu cadres and urban village staff managing BKB in urban areas including pre-prosperous. The research

participants involved 17 Posyandu cadres of Jatirejo, Plalangan, Pongangan and Sukorejo Sub-districts. Methods of data collection in the form of interviews.

DISCUSSION

The result of interview to 17 posyandu cadres in Jatirejo, Plalangan, Pongangan and Sukorejo sub-districts found that there was a Bina Keluarga Balita Program in Kelurahan but not yet optimally. In Jatirejo, Bina Kleuarga Balita do once a month, usually coincide with the schedule of early childhood education. Posyandu officers understanding about the activities Bina Keluarga Balita is still about the development of children related to physical health. This is in accordance with what was delivered by one of Jatirejo's posyandu cadres:

“BKB in our place has been running, and done once a month usually coincides with the activities of early childhood. BKB is like we give counseling about child growth especially health related”

In subsequent interviews, it was found that the provision of BKB materials could not given routinely due to time constraints, limited human resources and no intensive deepening of BKB materials to the cadres. Furthermore, BKB material has not been concerned with the sexual education of children at various age

levels.

Unlike Jatirejo, BKB activities in Plalangan sub-district have not gone well. The posyandu cadres understanding about BKB is still related to the health of children toddlers. Implementation of integrative holistic services that run only Childhood and posyandu. At posyandu, the cadres were more focused on weighing, recording the physical health condition of the children and the nutritional problem of the children. The cadres do not provide parenting counseling services to parents or families who take toddlers to posyandu. Time constraints, unbalanced number of cadres with parents who have toddlers and not yet learned the material become obstacles in the implementation of BKB.

Information which is obtained in Sukorejo village, Bina Keluarga Balita is running well, it was done once a month and not coincided with the activities of early childhood. Nevertheless, the posyandu cadres understanding in the Sukorejo subdistrict about the activities of Bina Keluarga Balita is still around the health of early childhood.

Refer to the *BKB* program, by redistributing material extension including (BKKBN, 2007a):

a. Materials I: integration of KB with BKB

- b. Materials II: self concept of motherhood and the role of mothers in the education of toddlers
- c. Materials III: process of children growth
- d. Materials IV: rough motion
- e. Materials V: smooth motion
- f. Materials VI: Passive Communication
- g. Materials VII: Active Communication
- h. Materials VIII: intellectual
- i. materials IX: Self-help
- j. Materials X: social behaviour

On discussion of social issues, materials of BKB only related in friendship problems, not up on how to behave asertif in friendship to prevent sexual assaults on children. There has been no specific material regarding sexual education in BKBprogram. Whereas, BKB aims to educate the public about the proper way of parenting. Sexual education is in the process of parenting is one material that needs to be examined in depth..

Research of Anugrah (2015) found that adequate sex education, it can be a form of protection is good enough so that a child can protect himself and also has enough insight for any risk caused by the decision in determining his sexual behavior in the future. The success of the parents in providing sex education to children was strongly influenced by several factors, such as level of education, social background, as well as

religion. There are a few crucial things that cause a given sex education parents cannot read by them well to the child, so that sex education is not working properly. Some of those reasons, among others, are: (1) knowledge that is taught to the child just simply advice or tip merely; (2) an error perception that belongs to the parents about sex education; (3) parents be covered against the child's curiosity about sex.

On the other hand, if we examine sexual education purposes according to Gunarso (2002), it appears clear that the purpose of the sexual education is to make a healthy emotional attitude toward sexual issues and guiding children and youth towards healthy adult lives and take charge of their sexual life.

The results of the interviews also found a high number of early marriages in the Sukorejovillage with the youngest age married at the age of 14. The behavior of children and adolescents who are not such good habits and consume liquor made the small children nearby viewing and joining a group of teenagers who huddle drunk. The real impact is often a child engaged in sexual activity that is watching pornography in mobile groups, teens recognize the songs with sexual meaning and the occurrence of sexual harassment behavior.

The majority of teenagers and children comes from a family of preprosperous, a parent has limited education, lack of public knowledge about sexual violence and growing up in a permissive social environment against sexual violence on a child.

See the above phenomenon, of course, counselors need to engage more actively in the prevention efforts as well as the handling of sexual assault on a child. The challenges of counselors in the larger society. The phenomenon of early marriage, sexual assault on a child, pregnancy pre marriage, the emergence of the behavior of children and adolescents who consume liquor and accessing pornography together, being homework of the Counselors.

Cited in Hartono (2015), in the era of the MEA, the identity of profession guidance and counselling should be not only on the setting of the pedagogical, but expanded on the setting of the community that includes the national community and the international community by making use of internet network such as social media and direct practice in the middle of the community so the guidance and counselling profession into a commodity that is required of the global community.

Latipun (2015) provides a solution to the involvement of counsellors in the

community through the community counseling. Lewis, Lewis, Daniels, and D'Andrea (2011) extended counseling community as *a comprehensive helping framework that is grounded in multicultural competence and oriented toward social justice. Because human behavior is powerfully affected by context, community counselors use strategies that facilitate the healthy development both of their clients and of the communities that nourish them.*

The aim of counselling is to conduct community prevention so that problems that may occur can be prevented. This is where there is some level of prevention, both before a problem occurs until a problem is occurring. So counseling community includes a very wide scope and experts encourage counselling (intervention) community-based it can be applied in school and the wider community.

The community certainly has a wide range of understanding, including the specific groups that reflect a specific identity such as race, interests, and a place to stay with all culture. Counselling services are expected to do with considering aspects of community as its base. Thus, required more effective counseling about the will to achieve, is also increasingly efficient and far-

reaching.

Referring to the explanation, and the counsellor can participate also in enable and engage in Community Development Program of the family Toddler (BKB).

Counselors can take up the challenge in drafting model Bina Keluarga Balita (BKB) and material enrichment of self concept of motherhood and the role of mothers in the education of toddlers, the material process of children growth and material social behaviour with sexual education material that will keep children from sexual violence cases, early marriage, child pregnancy, pregnancy pre marriages, the emergence of the behavior of children and adolescents who consume liquor and accessing pornography together.

Granting of knowledge on parents on sexuality would be the first step in forming a positive attitude towards sexual violence on children (Yuliejatiningsih, Rahmawati & Maulia, 2017). Expected counselors want to engage actively in the activities of the BKB especially on the extension of knowledge about sexual education, sexual violence on children and the efforts to protect children from sexual violence, which is thought to be correlated on a parenting community and improving the quality of human resources.

CONCLUSION

Bina Keluarga Balita program designed by government to improve participation and the quality of parents in parenting. Ten of the materials have been compiled by BKKBN based on age range of children. It's just that, not to the entire Village runs this program appropriately. Material on sexual education in early childhood is also not yet listed on such material. This impact has not been spread of level of public knowledge about sexual education and sexual violence on children that can happen anytime. Whereas, the community is vulnerable groups pre-welfare on cases of sexual violence.

On one hand, the growing number of sexual assaults occurring in the community. Counselors are faced with the task to educate the community and preventing a wide array of other social problems that arise related to sexual violence on children such as early marriage, child pregnancy, pregnancy pre marriages, the emergence of children and teenagers behavior who consume liquor and accessing pornography together.

The counselor will need to answer these challenges through real effort that shows a real contribution to the work of the Counselor's dignity. This service be a form of prevention of the emergence of negative behavior in the community.

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