

Analyzing Social Services for Child Victims of Violence: A Case from Malang, Indonesia

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ABSTRACT: *The phenomenon of child maltreatment, including physical, sexual, social violence, emotional abuse, or neglect towards children in Indonesia, tends to increase. Child victims of maltreatment will experience various psychosocial problems, requiring assistance and social welfare services. This study aims to analyze the forms of social welfare service programs for child victims of maltreatment in Malang City. The research approach uses a qualitative method and the research subjects were purposively determined, specifically employees of the Office of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection in Malang City. Data collection techniques were carried out through observation, interviews, and documentation. Data analysis techniques followed the stages of qualitative data processing, which include Data Collection, Data Display, Data Condensation, and Conclusion and Verification. The results indicate that forms of violence against children include physical violence, psychological violence, sexual abuse, maltreatment, and neglect or abandonment. Meanwhile, the social welfare service programs for child victims of maltreatment include social assistance in the form of psychological support and consultation, social support (social aid) in the form of goods, and social protection in the form of social advocacy.*

Fenomena tindak pidana penganiayaan anak baik berupa kekerasan fisik, seksual, sosial, emosional, maupun penelantaran terhadap anak di Indonesia cenderung meningkat. Anak korban penganiayaan akan mengalami berbagai permasalahan psikososial sehingga memerlukan pendampingan dan layanan kesejahteraan sosial. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis bentuk-bentuk program layanan kesejahteraan sosial bagi anak korban penganiayaan di Kota Malang. Pendekatan penelitian menggunakan metode kualitatif dan

subjek penelitian ditentukan secara purposive, yaitu pegawai Dinas Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Perlindungan Anak Kota Malang. Teknik pengumpulan data dilakukan melalui observasi, wawancara, dan dokumentasi. Teknik analisis data mengikuti tahapan pengolahan data kualitatif yang meliputi Pengumpulan Data, Penyajian Data, Kondensasi Data, serta Penarikan dan Verifikasi. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa bentuk-bentuk kekerasan terhadap anak meliputi kekerasan fisik, kekerasan psikis, pelecehan seksual, penganiayaan, serta penelantaran atau penelantaran. Sementara itu, program layanan kesejahteraan sosial bagi anak korban penganiayaan meliputi bantuan sosial berupa dukungan dan konsultasi psikologis, dukungan sosial (bansos) berupa barang, dan perlindungan sosial berupa advokasi sosial.

Keywords: *Social Services, Child Abuse, Victims of Violence.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Cases of violence against children and women (child and women maltreatment) seem to frequently arise, with annual figures showing a generally increasing trend ([Balahadia et al.](#), 2022; [Massullo et al.](#), 2023). In recent decades, especially in Indonesia, both the quantity and quality of data on cases of violence against children have shown a tendency for growth ([Katayane & Titahelu](#), 2023). In Indonesia, according to [Rusyidi & Raharjo](#) (2018), the phenomenon of violence against women and children is a common social problem faced by countries worldwide, regardless of their level of social, economic, political, and cultural advancement. Authentic documents regarding the magnitude of sexual violence against children are difficult to obtain. However, existing documents suggest that this phenomenon is akin to an iceberg, where the actual data of incidents indicates an even larger scale ([Mardiyati & Udiati](#), 2018).

Regularly, institutions that provide services and social protection for children report data on violence against children, which consistently shows an increase. Generally, many incidents of violence against children are not publicized to the general population for various reasons ([Suradi](#), 2013). Referring to Law No. 35 of 2014 concerning child protection, it is emphasized that every child has the right to life, growth, and development, as well as the right to receive social protection from acts of violence and discrimination.

As for the data in 2023, up until September 2023, there were 1,800 reported cases of violence against children, which included 1,237 (68.72%) cases related to the Fulfillment of Children's Rights (PHA) and 563 (31.28%) cases related to Special Protection for Children (*Perlindungan Khusus Anak/PKA*). The forms of violence against children in the PHA cluster included: family environment and alternative care (58.7%); education, leisure time utilization, and cultural activities (7.9%); basic health and welfare (1.2%); and civil rights and freedoms (0.9%). In the PKA cluster, the forms of violence included sexual crimes, physical and/or psychological violence, other special protections for children, children in conflict with the law, victims of pornography and cybercrime, victims of mistreatment and neglect, victims of economic and/or sexual exploitation, victims of

stigmatization and labelling, child witnesses, victims of other crimes, kidnapping, sale and trafficking, victims of substance abuse, and children affected by deviant sexual behaviour (www.kpai.go.id).

The increase in data on violence or abuse against children (child maltreatment), whether physical, emotional, or sexual, will affect the psychosocial status of children and their quality of life in the future ([Özbay et al., 2024](#)). In addition to the real and potential risks to children's health, there are also risks to their psychological development. Children are at higher risk of experiencing injuries, sexual and reproductive health issues, unintended pregnancies, HIV risks, mental health problems, substance abuse, withdrawal from social interactions, and the onset of chronic diseases in adulthood, including a tendency to engage in social deviations and commit violence later in life ([Kurniasari et al., 2017](#)).

Based on the results of a word cloud analysis using NVivo-12 on various literature, the issue of child maltreatment is a primary concern in studies or research related to children. Other problems related to child studies include abuse, social disorder, trauma, neglect, health, violence, depression, mental health, emotional issues, and so on. This is illustrated in the following image:



Figure 1. Wordcloud analysis results

According to [Coelho et al.](#) (2014), violence against children (child maltreatment) is defined as an act of neglect by parents, caregivers, or adults that poses dangerous risks to children's health and experiences, encompassing types of physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, and social violence. Researchers and practitioners agree on four subtypes of Child Maltreatment (CM), namely physical violence, emotional or psychological abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect ([Laajasalo et al.](#), 2023). According to WHO, forms of childhood maltreatment include all types of physical, emotional, sexual abuse, neglect and negligence, and commercial exploitation, among others, that result in real harm or the potential for disruptions to health, survival, development, or dignity of the child in situations of responsibility, trust, or power relations ([Marques-Feixa et al.](#), 2023).

Child maltreatment refers to actions or behaviours that harm a child's physical, emotional, or developmental well-being ([Cabrera et al., 2020](#); [Mehta et al., 2023](#)). This includes various forms of abuse, such as physical, emotional, sexual, as well as neglect. Physical abuse involves injury or threats to a child's physical well-being, while emotional

abuse can involve humiliation, rejection, or neglect of emotional needs. Sexual abuse includes the exploitation or coercion of a child in sexual activity, while neglect means the failure to meet a child's basic needs, such as food, shelter, and education. Child maltreatment can have serious long-term impacts on children's mental and physical health, as well as their social development. Therefore, recognition, prevention, and appropriate treatment are essential to protect children from these detrimental experiences ([Vizard et al., 2022](#)).

In line with [Laajasalo et al. \(2023\)](#) perspective, [Fares-Otero et al. \(2023\)](#) states that violence against children (child maltreatment) includes physical, emotional, and/or sexual abuse and/or physical and/or emotional neglect occurring under the age of 18. Childhood maltreatment is generally defined as emotional, physical, and sexual abuse and neglect ([Fishere & Habermas, 2023](#)). The definition of child abuse is universally understood to encompass four main types: sexual abuse, physical violence, emotional or psychological abuse, and neglect ([Mehta et al., 2023](#)).

There are five main forms of abuse against children (emotional violence, neglect, physical violence, sexual abuse, and exposure to domestic violence) throughout childhood up to the age of 18 ([Higgins et al., 2023](#)). Violence against children is defined as physical violence, emotional violence, sexual abuse, neglect, or exposure to domestic violence before the age of 18 ([Pacella et al., 2023](#)). Child abuse manifests in various forms: sexual and physical abuse, oppression (discrimination), neglect, and even war crimes ([Arango, 2023](#)).

Furthermore, the WHO categorizes forms of violence against children into five types ([Suradi, 2013](#)): Physical Violence, Sexual Violence, Emotional Violence, Neglect and Abandonment, and Economic Violence (Commercial Exploitation). This involves using children as labourers or for other activities for the benefit of their parents or others, such as making children work all day and directing them towards work fields that are not appropriate for their age ([Higgins et al., 2023](#)).

Childhood violence can increase the risk of anxiety and mood disorders ([Santos et al., 2023](#)). Studies have found that violence against children is associated with mental health disorders, physical health problems, and health-risk behaviours throughout life ([Ruiz-Casares et al., 2022](#)). Violence against children, which includes physical violence, sexual violence, emotional violence, neglect, and exposure to domestic violence, is a serious public health issue ([de Oliveira et al., 2021](#)). Childhood violence is a risk factor for mental illness throughout life ([Higgins et al., 2023](#)). It is also linked to various physical health conditions later in life, such as stunted growth, high dietary fat intake, obesity, poor sleep quality, asthma, chronic lung conditions, ischemic heart disease, and cancer ([Kisely et al., 2023](#)). Recent research identifies hitting as a form of child abuse that is strongly correlated with physical and emotional violence ([Salmon et al., 2023](#)).

Referring to Haryanto's viewpoint ([Abidin, 2019](#)), rehabilitation is generally understood as the process of restoring an individual to their original state. The understanding of rehabilitation is broadly applied, encompassing habilitation. Habilitation can be defined as efforts to assist individuals who experience disorders or abnormalities at birth or during the growth and development stages of childhood ([Wade, 2024](#)).

Efforts for prevention and psychosocial rehabilitation for children who are victims of maltreatment are very urgent ([Al Gharaibeh & Gibson, 2019](#)). Violence against children (child maltreatment) is a social issue that has psychological impacts and consequences for the psychosocial development of children. This research aims to: 1) describe and identify the forms of child maltreatment among children in Malang City; and 2) analyze the types of social welfare service programs for child victims of maltreatment in Malang City.

II. METHOD

The purpose of this study is to describe the forms of child maltreatment and analyze the forms of social service programs for victims of child maltreatment. Therefore, the research approach used is qualitative ([Busetto et al., 2020](#)). Qualitative research focuses on detailed descriptions and qualitative or substantive analyses of people's experiences ([Hammarberg et al., 2016](#); [Marvasti, 2004](#)). The type of research employed is descriptive qualitative ([Babbie, 2008](#)). The setting for this research is in Malang City. Data sources (subjects and informants) for the research are determined based on purposive or judgmental sampling techniques ([Babbie, 2008](#); [Neuman, 2007](#)). The purposive technique is applied in situations where the researcher bases the sampling on specific considerations with a particular intent, meaning that the data sources (subjects and informants) in this study include various parties who understand the phenomenon of child maltreatment in Malang City. Therefore, the data sources (subjects and informants) for this research include parents of child victims of maltreatment, staff from the LP3A of Malang City, social workers, and the Social Service Department. The number of research subjects and informants was five people.

The technique for validating the research data applies the criteria of credibility and confirmability. The credibility technique used is data triangulation, while the confirmability technique implements truth audits on research records. Meanwhile, data analysis is conducted based on the stages of the qualitative data process according to the interactive model proposed by [Miles et al. \(2014\)](#), which includes data collection, data condensation, data display, and conclusion and verification, as illustrated below:

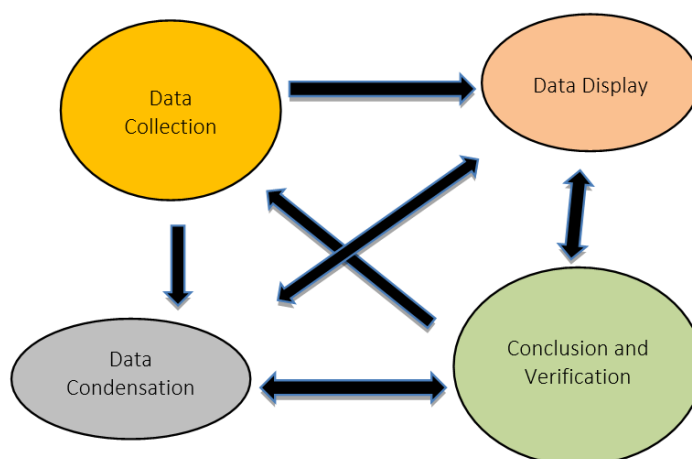


Figure 2. Components of the interactive data analysis model

The *first* step is the strategy (process) of data collection, which applies three interrelated and complementary main techniques: 1) Interviews, conducted to obtain various direct data from research subjects related to child violence; 2) Observation, carried out to observe various situations and conditions in the field; and 3) Documentation, which involves analyzing data from various secondary sources; The *second* step is data condensation, which involves processes of selection, simplification, abstraction, and transforming data that approaches the entirety of field notes, interview transcripts, documents, and other empirical materials; The *third* step is data display, where data is presented using tables and descriptive narratives; and The *final* step is drawing conclusions and verification, which means that after the data is analyzed, it is then summarized and verified against relevant concepts.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Forms of Child Maltreatment in Malang City

Based on the research data sourced from the Integrated Service Center for the Protection of Women and Children (*Pusat Pelayanan Terpadu Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Anak/P2TP2A*), Malang City, a total of 52 cases of violence against children were recorded in Malang City during 2023. Children who are victims of violence (child maltreatment) are certainly one of the types of clients requiring social welfare services (PPKS).

Table 1. Categories of forms of violence against children

No	Category Form of Violence	Total	Percentage (%)
1	Physical Performance	13	25
2	Psychological Violence	10	19,24
3	Sexual Violence/obscenity/rape	17	32,70
4	Neglect/neglect of children's rights	11	21,16
5	Social violence/exploitation	1	0,02
Total		52	100

Source: Research data, 2023 (<https://sosdp3ap2kb.malangkota.go.id/p2tp2a/>)

From Table 1 above, it is evident that the most dominant category of violence against children in Malang City during 2023 is sexual violence, including molestation and rape, accounting for 32.70%. Physical violence constitutes 25%, psychological violence is at 19.24%, neglect or abandonment of children's rights is at 21.16%, and social violence or exploitation is at 0.02%.

Children are the most vulnerable targets for adult violence. Their physical position and condition make them unable to resist the violent actions perpetrated by adults. Furthermore, when looking at the gender of child victims of violence, 36 cases (69.23%) of violence were committed against girls, while 16 cases (30.77%) were committed against boys. Based on gender, most child victims of violence are girls.

The forms of violence inflicted on girls are primarily in the form of sexual violence. Girls are not only physically weak but also very innocent, making them unable to comprehend what adults are actually doing to them. Girls are often easily persuaded or enticed, for example, with promises of pocket money, and so on. They are also very easy to control, fearful of threats, and obedient.

Violence inflicted on children will certainly have an impact on them as victims of such actions. The effects include physical, psychological/mental, and social impacts. As stated by a research subject as follows:

"...Yes, it will certainly have negative effects on child victims of violence. Physically, they experience pain, especially those who are victims of physical violence; psychologically, they generally feel trauma, stress, low self-esteem, insomnia, and so on. Socially, child victims of violence usually do not want to socialize, are afraid to meet others, are suspicious, quiet, like this..." (Interview with subject IR).

The results of the identification regarding how the impacts of violence against children can be illustrated in Table 2 as follows:

Table 2. Impact of violent actions

No	Type of Impact	Number of Cases (n= 52)	Percentage (%)
1	Experiencing physical pain/fever	29	55,77
2	Trauma/Stress/Hysterics	41	78,85
3	Insecure/Quiet/Doesn't want to socialize	37	71,15
4	Fear of meeting other people	31	59,62
5	Embarrassed/Don't want to go to school	27	51,92
6	Difficulty sleeping	17	32,69
7	Others	11	21,15

Source: Research Data, 2023 (<https://sosdp3ap2kb.malangkota.go.id/p2tp2a/>)

Based on the data in Table 2 above, it is evident that children who are victims of violence (child maltreatment) experience various problems, both physical, psychological, and social. The psychological impact generally shows that child victims of violence experience psychological disorders such as trauma, stress, and hysteria in 41 cases (78.85%). Other data indicate that 29 cases (55.77%) of children experience physical pain, and 37 cases (71.15%) experience social disturbances such as low self-esteem, being quiet, an unwillingness to socialize with others or withdrawal from social interactions with peers. Additionally, 31 cases (59.62%) of children become fearful when meeting others, especially strangers; 27 cases (51.92%) of children feel ashamed and do not want to go to school anymore; 17 cases (32.69%) of children experience sleep disturbances; and 11 cases (21.15%) of children experience other forms of disturbances.

The various issues felt by child victims of violence include: *First*, emotional reactions, such as self-blame or anger, accompanied by feelings of fear, distrust, shame, sadness, and fragility. They may withdraw and close themselves off from their surrounding social

environment, including family, friends, or partners, especially if their social environment or community rejects them. *Second*, psychological effects manifest as nightmares related to the violence experienced, flashbacks, difficulty concentrating, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and mental health disorders. *Third*, physical reactions, where physical injuries from violence have impacts on those who experience them. Such conditions may relate to changes in sleep cycles, eating patterns, or responses to threats. Therefore, it is not surprising that women who have experienced physical injuries can be very sensitive to sounds or touches that remind them of the violence they endured. Furthermore, physical changes resulting from violence can also damage the body and may even lead to death.

The perpetrators of violence against children are generally those closest to the child victims, including family members, relatives, and close neighbours. It is indeed very contradictory that those who should protect the child, such as family, relatives, and close individuals, often become social threats to the child.

Table 3. Categories of perpetrators of violence against children

No	Actor Category	Number of Cases (n= 52)	Percentage (%)
1	Family (Parents)	21	40,38
2	Closest Relatives (Uncles, Aunts, etc.)	19	36,54
3	Relatives Family	9	17,31
4	Neighbour	3	5,78
Total		52	100

Source: Research Data, 2023 (<https://sosdp3ap2kb.malangkota.go.id/p2tp2a/>)

Referring to the data in Table 3, it is found that the categories of perpetrators of violence against children include four parties: family members (parents) in 21 cases (40.38%), close relatives such as uncles and aunts in 19 cases (36.54%), family relatives in 9 cases (17.31%), and neighbours in 3 cases (5.78%).

When examining the factors that drive perpetrators to commit violence against children, several factors emerge, as shown in Table 4 below:

Table 4. Factors causing violence against children

No	Causal Factors Perpetrators	Number of Cases (n= 52)	Percentage (%)
1	Annoyance/Emotion	17	32,69
2	Economic Conditions	8	15,38
3	Biological Drives/Sexual Desire	19	36,54
4	Family Disharmony	6	11,54
5	Others	2	3,85
Total		52	100

Source: Research Data, 2023 (<https://sosdp3ap2kb.malangkota.go.id/p2tp2a/>)

From the data in Table 4, it is evident that the factors driving violence against children include emotional or psychological factors in 17 cases (32.69%), economic inability in 8 cases (15.38%), biological impulses or sexual desires in 19 cases (36.54%), family disharmony in 6 cases (11.54%), and other factors in 2 cases (3.85%).

According to [Mappiare-AT](#) (2013), the triggers for violent actions in individuals can be categorized into two aspects: *First*, Defensive Aggression, which is a type of violence aimed at defending something valuable to the individual as a reaction to a threat. The violence is not solely intended to cause destruction or death to others but is aimed at preserving life. *Second*, Destructive Aggression is a type of violent action that arises from a genuine desire of the perpetrator to harm others, inflict cruel torture, and have the intent to kill and destroy for personal satisfaction.

The conclusions of the research by [Muarifah et al.](#) (2020) state that violence against children is a complex problem. The causes and effects of violent actions vary widely in each case. Efforts to identify the phenomenon of violence are one of the initial steps to understanding parenting patterns and can serve as a basis for implementing interventions to prevent such violence. Violence is not an appropriate action to be taken against young children, as the consequences they experience will carry into adulthood. Through understanding the causes of violence, preventive measures should be taken to maintain quality parenting and enable children to grow up happy.

Forms of Social Welfare Services for Child Victims of Maltreatment in Malang City

The primary institution providing social welfare services for child victims of violence in Malang City is the Integrated Service Center for the Protection of Women and Children. The P2TP2A institution serves as the Technical Implementation Unit of the DP3AP2KB, specifically addressing gender-based violence against women and children in Malang City. P2TP2A was established based on 1) Malang City Regulation No. 12 of 2015 concerning the Protection of Women and Children Victims of Violence; 2) Mayor Regulation No. 64 of 2015 regarding the Formation of the Task Force for the Protection Services of Women and Children Victims of Violence; and 3) the Mayor of Malang Decree No. 188/55/35.73.112/2006 on the Establishment of the Task Force for the Protection Services of Women and Children Victims of Violence. It has formed and developed P2TP2A Assistance Posts in 5 districts and 57 villages in Malang City.

The role of the P2TP2A institution is to provide comprehensive and integrated social services to women and children who are victims of violence while upholding the privacy and confidentiality of reporters, victims, and perpetrators. The activities of P2TP2A in Malang City include 1) Providing services and support to prevent violence against women and children in Malang City; 2) Organizing various activities such as strengthening institutions, networking, forums, and stakeholders related to the prevention of violence against women and children; and 3) Conducting awareness-raising (socialization), coordination meetings, and workshops related to the Child Protection Law, the Domestic Violence Law, the Trafficking Law, the Narcotics Law, and the Dangers of Pornography (Law No. 44 of 2008) concerning Youth Interactions in Malang City.

In providing social services for child victims of violence, P2TP2A collaborates and networks with various parties. The P2TP2A network includes the DP3AP2KB of Malang City, PKK of Malang City, UPPA Polresta Malang City, the Health Department, the Education Department, the Social Department, community health centres (*Pusat Kesehatan Masyarakat/Puskesmas*), the Malang City General Hospital (RSUD), sub-districts and villages in Malang City, WCC Malang, and LPA Malang.

Generally, the forms of social welfare programs for child victims of violence (child maltreatment) in Malang City consist of three types: Social Assistance Programs, Social Protection Programs, and Social Aid Programs (social support).

The social assistance program is aimed at providing advocacy and recovery support, particularly focusing on the psychosocial aspects of child victims of violence. The assistance process is carried out by the P2TP2A team in Malang City in collaboration with various related parties, such as psychologists, the police, social workers, and others. The goal of providing psychosocial support is to deliver psychological and social services to child victims of violence, helping to restore their physical, psychological, spiritual, and social conditions so that their social functions can return to normal.

Specifically, the Social Protection Program is intended to prevent and address the risks of social disruption and vulnerability for individuals, families, groups, and/or communities, ensuring social continuity. Its implementation includes social assistance, social advocacy, and legal aid.

First, the social assistance program aims to ensure that individuals, families, groups, and communities suffering from social disruption and vulnerability can continue to lead their lives normally. The provision of social assistance is temporary and ongoing, in the form of 1) Direct assistance, 2) Accessibility provision, and 3) Institutional arrangements.

Second, the social advocacy program aims to provide protection and defence for individuals, families, groups, and communities whose rights have been violated. Social advocacy can also involve raising awareness of rights and responsibilities, offering defence, and fulfilling rights.

Third, the legal aid program is organized to represent the interests of citizens facing legal issues in defending their rights, both in and out of court, as well as providing legal consultations.

Special protection is intended as a type of protection afforded to children in specific situations and circumstances to ensure their sense of safety from threats that endanger their lives and well-being during their growth and development. Rapid intervention, including physical, psychological, and social treatment and/or rehabilitation, as well as the prevention of diseases and other health issues, is provided through 1) psychosocial support during treatment until recovery; 2) social assistance for children from low-income families; and 3) protection and support during all judicial processes.

Meanwhile, social assistance programs are provided in the form of urgent material and facility assistance for child victims of violence. Such assistance may include clothing, food, health checks, and facilities such as safe house shelters and so on.

[Nisa & Mulyasari](#) (2023) state that legal assistance provided through the Integrated Service Center for the Empowerment of Women and Children is a type of effort to protect children and women against sexual violence. This service institution is a centre that integrates various empowerment efforts for women in different areas of development. Additionally, this protection is aimed at women and children from multiple forms of discrimination, violence, and human trafficking. This institution was also established by the Indonesian government to be utilized by the community through the provision of various forms of legal assistance for victims of sexual violence. It offers several services, such as legal consultations, reproductive health consultations, referral centres, crisis intervention centres for women, trauma recovery centres, and more.

Social Services for Child Victims of Violence

The findings of this study reveal that child violence in Malang City predominantly manifests as sexual violence, including molestation and rape, accounting for 32.70% of reported cases. This alarming statistic underscores the critical vulnerability of children, who are often victimized by those closest to them, such as parents and relatives. The research aligns with previous studies indicating that perpetrators of child violence frequently occupy trusted roles in the child's life, creating a deceptive sense of safety that can lead to exploitation. This situation highlights the urgent need for increased awareness and education regarding children's rights and protections, especially among parents and caregivers, to prevent further occurrences of violence.

Additionally, the study identifies various contributing factors to child violence, such as emotional instability, economic hardship, and family disharmony. These factors interplay to create an environment where violence can thrive. For instance, a lack of parental supervision coupled with external pressures—such as financial strain—can exacerbate the risk of violence against children. The influence of media and societal norms also plays a significant role in shaping behaviours and attitudes towards violence. Therefore, government and community organizations need to implement comprehensive intervention programs that not only address the immediate needs of victims but also educate families and communities about healthy relationships, conflict resolution, and the importance of safeguarding children's welfare. A multi-faceted approach is necessary to effectively combat child violence and foster a safer environment for future generations.

The data indicates that violence against children and women is becoming increasingly concerning. Referring to the statements of [Nisa & Mulyasari](#) (2023), violence against children and women has been a growing issue in recent years. Children often become victims of violence because they are perceived as powerless. To prevent sexual violence against children and women, the government and related organizations implement various initiatives such as strict guidelines and regulations.

The research data shows that the perpetrators of violence against children are often individuals close to or known by the child. This aligns with the findings of [Lewoleba & Fahrozi](#) (2020), which indicate that violence, particularly sexual violence against children, specifically refers to any relationship or interaction between a child and an older or adult

individual, such as a stranger, sibling, or parents, where the child is exploited for the perpetrator's sexual needs.

There are several potential causes for the recent increase in sexual violence against children ([Souama et al., 2023](#)). Factors causing child maltreatment can be divided into two main categories: internal and external. Internal factors are often related to an adult's psychological and emotional state, including mental health problems, addiction, or traumatic past experiences. Individuals who experience high stress, emotional instability, or poor parenting tend to be more at risk for abuse. Meanwhile, external factors include the social and economic environment, such as poverty, domestic violence, and lack of social support. Unstable environments or communities with high levels of violence also contribute to the risk of maltreatment ([Wahl et al., 2020](#)). The combination of these factors creates conditions that can trigger child abuse and neglect behaviour, so it is important to understand and address these two aspects to prevent child maltreatment ([Baldwin et al., 2023](#)). As stated by [Andhini & Arifin \(2019\)](#), parents play a crucial role in nurturing and protecting their children; however, violence against children is often perpetrated by close individuals such as parents. Therefore, efforts are needed to prevent violence against children from being continuously inflicted by those close to them, and strict actions must be taken by the authorities against those who commit such violence.

The findings of this study identified several factors contributing to violence against children, namely emotional factors in 17 cases (32.69%), economic inability in 8 cases (15.38%), biological impulses or sexual desires in 19 cases (36.54%), family disharmony in 6 cases (11.54%), and other factors in 2 cases (3.85%). A study conducted by [Kurniawansyah & Dahlan \(2022\)](#) indicates that factors leading to violence against children include the natural emergence of sexual desires that are not balanced with self-control, weak parental supervision of children, free social interactions, economic conditions, the influence of pornography in the media, and environmental factors.

IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the discussion of the research findings, the following conclusions can be drawn: *First*, the dominant category of violence against children in Malang City during 2023 is sexual violence, including molestation and rape, which accounts for 32.70%. Physical violence constitutes 25%, psychological violence is at 19.24%, neglect or abandonment of children's rights is at 21.16%, and social violence or exploitation is at 0.02%. Meanwhile, the categories of perpetrators of violence against children are comprised of four parties: family members (parents) in 21 cases (40.38%), close relatives such as uncles and aunts in 19 cases (36.54%), family relatives in 9 cases (17.31%), and neighbours in 3 cases (5.78%). *Second*, the general forms of social welfare services for child victims of violence (child maltreatment) in Malang City include social assistance, social protection, and social aid. The social assistance program aims to provide advocacy and recovery support, particularly focusing on the psychosocial aspects of child victims of violence. The forms of

social protection include social assistance, social advocacy, and legal aid. The social aid program is provided in the form of urgent material assistance and facilities for child victims of violence, such as clothing, food, health checks, and facilities like safe house shelters, and so on. Based on the findings of this study, it is recommended that the government and relevant organizations in Malang City implement a multi-layered strategy to combat child violence effectively. First, there should be a focus on community education programs aimed at raising awareness about children's rights and the various forms of violence they may encounter. Workshops and seminars for parents, caregivers, and educators can provide essential information on recognizing warning signs of abuse and promoting non-violent parenting techniques. Additionally, establishing strong support networks involving local law enforcement, healthcare providers, and social services is crucial to ensure that victims receive timely assistance and protection. Furthermore, integrating mental health services into schools can provide children with safe spaces to discuss their experiences and seek help. By fostering a collaborative community approach and enhancing protective measures, Malang City can create a safer environment for children and significantly reduce the incidence of violence against them.

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VI. REFERENCES

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