



## Phenomenological study: parenting experiences by mothers of domestic violence victims

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### ABSTRAK

**Latar belakang:** Kekerasan dalam rumah tangga (KDRT) merupakan masalah kesehatan yang sering terjadi pada perempuan di masyarakat. Kekerasan yang sering dialami oleh wanita yaitu kekerasan fisik, kekerasan psikologis dan kekerasan seksual. KDRT memiliki dampak negatif pada wanita yaitu penurunan status kesehatan dan gangguan jiwa. Wanita korban KDRT yang mengalami masalah kesehatan jiwa akan berisiko mengakibatkan gangguan pengasuhan pada anak.

**Tujuan:** Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengeksplorasi pengalaman pengasuhan anak pada ibu korban KDRT.

**Metode:** Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif dengan pendekatan fenomenologi. Proses pengambilan data dilakukan dengan metode wawancara semi terstruktur. Teknik pengambilan sampel menggunakan snowball sampling. Karakteristik partisipan dalam penelitian ini yaitu wanita korban KDRT yang telah memiliki anak dengan status masih menikah maupun sudah bercerai. Partisipan dalam penelitian ini berjumlah 7 orang wanita korban KDRT yang telah memiliki anak. Analisis data yang digunakan yaitu thematic analysis dengan menggunakan software Nvivo 12.

**Hasil:** Terdapat 4 tema utama dalam penelitian ini yaitu penyebab KDRT (masalah ekonomi dan perselingkuhan suami), peran pengasuhan anak oleh ibu korban KDRT, pemenuhan kebutuhan psikologis anak oleh ibu korban KDRT, dan penerapan aturan dan hukuman untuk anak oleh ibu korban KDRT.

**Kesimpulan:** Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa ibu korban KDRT tetap melakukan pengasuhan positif pada anak dengan cara mengasuh anak, memenuhi kebutuhan anak dan membimbing anak. Pelayanan kesehatan perlu mengembangkan program screening korban KDRT untuk mendeteksi kasus KDRT dimasyarakat. Program pengembangan pola asuh atau hubungan orangtua dan anak yang baik juga perlu dilakukan khususnya bagi keluarga dengan risiko atau mengalami KDRT agar ibu korban KDRT tetap melakukan pengasuhan positive untuk anak.

**KATA KUNCI:** pengasuhan anak; ibu; kdrt; kualitatif

### ABSTRACT

**Background:** Domestic violence (DV) is a health problem that often occurs in women in the community. Violence that is often experienced by women is physical violence, psychological violence and sexual violence. Domestic violence has a negative impact on women, namely a decrease in health status and mental disorders. Women who are victims of domestic violence who have mental health problems are at risk of causing child rearing disorders.

**Objectives:** The purpose of this study was to explore the experience of parenting by mothers of domestic violence victims.

**Methods:** This study uses a qualitative method with a phenomenological approach. The data collection process was carried out using a semi-structured interview method. The sampling technique used snowball sampling. The characteristics of the participants in this study were women who were victims of domestic violence who had children who were still married or divorced. The participants in this study were 7 women victims of domestic violence who had children. The data analysis used is thematic analysis using Nvivo 12 software.

**Results:** There are 4 main themes in this study. The themes raised were causes of domestic violence (financial quarrel and cheating husband), the role of parenting by mothers of domestic violence victims, fulfilling the psychological needs of children by mothers of domestic violence victims, and the application of rules and punishments for children by mothers of domestic violence victims.

**Conclusions:** This study concludes that mothers who are victims of domestic violence continue to provide positive parenting for their children by taking care of their children, meeting their needs and guiding their children. Health services need to develop a screening program for victims of domestic violence to detect cases of domestic violence in the community. Programs for developing parenting patterns or good parent-child relationships also need to be carried out, especially for families at risk or experiencing domestic violence so that mothers of domestic violence victims continue to provide positive parenting for their children.

**KEYWORD:** parenting; mothers; domestic violence; qualitative

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## INTRODUCTION

Domestic violence (DV) is a health problem that often occurs in women in the community. Both physical violence and sexual violence often occur in 35% of women or 1 in 3 women in the world. Intimate partner violence that occurs in developed countries is estimated at 23.3% of women experiencing violence (1). A study showed 1.7 women in Canada reported experiencing intimate partner violence (2). Developing countries like Ethiopia 30.2% of women experience intimate partner violence (3). In Indonesia, the prevalence of women experiencing violence in 2018 increased by 14% to 406,178 cases. The number of cases of domestic violence in NTB is 745 cases and ranks number 5 with the highest number of domestic violence after Central Java (2,913 cases), Jakarta (2,318 cases), East Java (1,944 cases)

and South Sumatra (945 cases) (4). The high number of domestic violence cases in a province cannot be separated from the public's trust in reporting to institutions. Victims of domestic violence tend to cover up the violence they experience and do not believe in complaining to community institutions or telling about the events they have experienced. Researchers found several cases in Taliwang District, West Sumbawa Regency, where victims were open to telling their experiences.

Violence experienced by women who are married varies. The results of several studies show that psychological violence is violence that is more common in women, followed by physical and sexual violence (5–8). Women who are victims of domestic violence are negatively affected by the violence they experience. The results showed that women who experienced

physical violence resulted in a decrease in health scores (9). Mental disorders are also a problem that occurs in women who are victims of intimate partner violence. A study shows that the most common mental health effects on victims of domestic violence are anxiety and depression (10).

The high rate of violence against women and the negative impact that is quite severe on mothers of domestic violence victims can have an impact on the parenting provided by the victim. Meanwhile, research related to parenting for victims of domestic violence has not been done much especially in Indonesia. Based on the above background, the researcher is interested in conducting a Phenomenological Study: the experience of parenting by mothers of domestic violence victims.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

This research is qualitative research with a phenomenological approach. The purpose of this study was to explore the experience of parenting by mothers of domestic violence victims. This study is expected to increase participants' knowledge about parenting and reduce negative parenting by mothers of domestic violence victims. Participants in this study found 7 female victims of domestic violence who had children

in Taliwang District. The sampling technique used snowball sampling. This research was carried out after obtaining approval to pass the ethical test Number: 1747/KEP-UNISA/XII/2020 from the Research Ethics Commission of Aisyiyah University Yogyakarta. Data collection techniques used semi-structured interviews, observation, and secondary data (news, photos, videos and laws). Researchers conducted data analysis using thematic analysis methods to find several themes in the study. Data analysis was carried out using NVivo 12 software.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### RESULTS

#### Characteristics of Participants

Participants in this study were women who were victims of domestic violence who had children who were still married or divorced. The women who were victims of domestic violence in this study had experience of experiencing domestic violence for more than 1 year with an age range of 29-62 years.

#### Data Analysis Results

The results of data analysis based on thematic analysis found 4 main themes, namely: causes of domestic violence, the role of childcare by mothers of domestic violence victims,

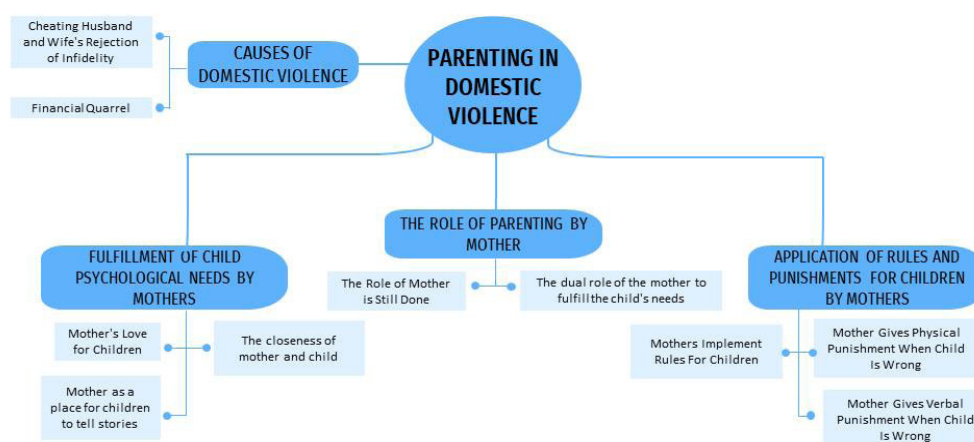


Figure 1. Mapping Concept Research Result

fulfillment of the psychological needs of children by mothers of domestic violence victims, and the application of rules and punishments for children by mothers of domestic violence victims. Mapping concept research results can be seen in Figure 1.

### **Causes of Domestic Violence**

The cause of domestic violence is a personal/household problem that causes domestic violence. The main causes of domestic violence are financial quarrel and cheating husband and wife's rejection of infidelity, here is a description that describes:

"Yeah the problem is because he cheated on a woman, he whatsapp, said he loves her or something, so obviously I as a wife are angry, right. I am angry and emotional. A lot of dirty words came out of my mouth. I also hit him. I also a loud person. That's why he's emotional too, because we're both tough, he's emotional too, so we fight, so it's domestic violence." (R6, 29 years old, 8 years experiencing domestic violence, line 40)

"It's natural for us as women to ask, right, where is the money. In fact, he replied, use a punch" (R5, age 32 years, 7 years experiencing domestic violence, line 41)

### **The role of parenting by mother**

The role of parenting by mothers who are victims of domestic violence is the role played by mothers in caring for and meeting the physical, economic, and educational needs of children. Mothers continue to take care of, care for and meet the needs of their children even though they have experienced domestic violence. The mother also fulfills the needs of the child with her own business because the husband does not meet the needs of the child, here is a description that describes:

"I still take care of the children as usual. The children are still being cared for anyway. Even though my condition was constantly

being hurt, by my husband, I still took care of the children. For me, children are everything..." (R7, 36 years old, 12 years experiencing domestic violence, line 312)

"... Sometimes I help my mother-in-law to make snacks, so after that we buy food. Yes, I am the one who tries to fulfill all the needs of his child. He doesn't want to know, he knows his child can eat and be breastfed." (R5, 32 years old, 7 years experiencing domestic violence, line 263)

### **Fulfillment of Children's Psychological Needs by Mothers**

The fulfillment of the psychological needs of children by mothers who are victims of domestic violence is a pattern of maternal behavior to meet the child's needs for love, security, and comfort, as well as child welfare. Mothers give love in different forms, form closeness with children and become a place for children to tell stories, as described below:

"Yes, if we, as parents, show affection, yes, by doing what they want..." (R6, 29 years old, 8 years experiencing domestic violence, line 281)

"I show that affection by how comfortable they are, so I can be their friend too, playmate, a place to vent, and so on.." (R7, 36 years old, 12 years experiencing domestic violence, line 509)

### **Application of Rules and Punishments for Children by Mothers**

The application of rules and punishments for children by mothers who are victims of domestic violence is parenting by mothers to educate children by limiting the child's behavior and giving punishment for violations or mistakes made by the child. Here is a description that describes it:

"Yes, I'm a little tight. Kinda strict with the kids. So, when the child comes home from school, takes a shower, then prays, prays, then sleeps. Then at 3 o'clock they woke up. Get up, someone washes the dishes,

someone sweeps, that is. Continue to take a bath, pray, then study.” (R1, 62 years old, 7 years experiencing domestic violence , line 161)

“I pinched the child but it wasn't hard, I was only warned like this (i.e. how to pinch slowly). Because he bothered his younger brother.” (R3, 29 years old, 3 years experiencing domestic violence, line 376)

## DISCUSSION

Domestic Violence (DV) is an act that violates the law. In Law no. 23 of 2004, it has been explained in article 5 that everyone is prohibited from committing domestic violence against people within the scope of their household (11). The results of this study indicate that domestic violence begins with quarrels or fights that occur between husband and wife. Spouse infidelity is closely related to domestic violence. Husband's unfaithfulness causes twice the occurrence of violence in partners (12). Wives who do not accept infidelity tend to respond negatively, such as being irritated, angry and saying rude things to their husbands. It is this wife's anger that causes husband violence (13).

The forms of violence that are often experienced by women are physical violence, psychological violence, economic violence and stalking (12,14–17). The negative impacts experienced by women victims of domestic violence are not only physical but also psychological. Mothers who experience a negative impact on their psychology can cause interference with their parenting. Stress levels in mothers are associated with child abuse and neglect (18). Poor quality of care is associated with maternal depression (19). Inadequate care, ineffective, insensitive mother, and inadequate quality of the relationship between mother and child are the result of mothers experiencing depression. (19,20).

In contrast to the results of this study indicate that mothers of domestic violence victims continue

to provide the best care for their children. Mothers provide the best care and become good mothers for children even though they must take care of their own children and experience violence from their husbands. The function of parenting as mature, wise, strong parents, capable of nurturing, guiding and protecting children is still carried out by mothers who are victims of domestic violence (21). Mothers also continue to provide food for children, take children to school, guide children to study and meet all children's needs. Mothers adapt to the violence experienced and take full responsibility for their children (22). Mothers also play a dual role to meet the needs of children. Working and taking care of the house are dual roles performed by mothers of domestic violence victims (23).

Mothers of domestic violence victims also continue to fulfill psychological needs for children in the form of love, provide comfort and a place for children to tell stories. Mothers provide positive parenting by coping with stress and protecting their children (24). Mothers of victims of domestic violence are described as good, caring parents, creating a happy, safe and comfortable mood for their children (21). Mothers become a place for children to tell stories so that mothers have emotional attachment and feelings of pleasure when talking to children.

In addition to meeting the needs of children both physically and psychologically, the parenting pattern carried out by mothers of domestic violence victims is to apply rules and punishments for their children. Punishment if the child violates the rules or makes a mistake is also applied by the mother. The punishment given to the child is related to the child's behavior, not influenced by the domestic violence experienced by the mother (25). Mothers apply rules and punishments to educate their children (26). Physical punishment given by mothers to children who make mistakes or negative behavior in the form of hitting or pinching. Corporal punishment is believed

by some to be more effective for disciplining children and helping children understand the consequences of their negative behavior (27,28). Mothers also apply verbal punishment when children make mistakes. The verbal punishment that the mother gave was scolding the child, reprimanding, and advising the child.

The results of this study indicate that mothers who experience domestic violence in fact continue to do positive parenting and do their best to educate their children. However, other studies also show that mothers who experience domestic violence have a positive relationship with negative parenting (29). So, the community nurses have an important role in society, especially in overcoming problems of domestic violence and negative care that may be carried out by victims of domestic violence. The role of an educator needs to be carried out by community nurses to prevent negative parenting for parents who experience domestic violence. Community nurses can provide health education related to domestic violence, the impact of domestic violence on childcare, and positive parenting that parents need to do. Community nurses also carry out their role as care givers by providing health care that focuses on people or families experiencing domestic violence. Treatment is provided in a comprehensive, coordinated and community-oriented manner (30).

## CONCLUSION AND REKOMENDATION

Based on the results and discussion, it can be concluded that parenting by mothers of domestic violence victims is still carried out positive parenting by meeting the needs of the child and guiding the child. The role of childcare for mothers of domestic violence victims is illustrated in 3 main themes, namely the role of parenting by mothers of domestic violence victims, fulfillment of children's psychological needs, and the application of rules and punishments for children by mothers of domestic violence victims.

Suggestions that can be given by this study are the need for a screening program related to the incidence of domestic violence in the region to detect women who are at risk and experience domestic violence. Programs for developing parenting patterns or good parent-child relationships need to be carried out, especially for families at risk or experiencing domestic violence. Family and social support for mothers of domestic violence victims also needs to be done to minimize negative emotions of mothers and provide the best care for their children.

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