

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES, AND EXPERIENCES AND THE INCIDENCE OF VIOLENCE AMONG ADOLESCENTS IN WEST SUMATRA PROVINCE

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Abstract

Background: Violence directed at children refers to deliberate actions that cause physical or psychological harm, including neglecting their basic needs or inflicting physical harm. Increased cases of violence against women and children from 2019 to 2021. The number of reported cases of violence against children was recorded to have increased from 11,057 in 2019, 11,278 cases in 2020, and to 14,517 cases in 2021. The group that experienced violence based on education was at the elementary level, junior high and high school which are teenagers. In general, the factors that cause domestic violence can be classified into two factors, namely external factors and internal factors. This study was aimed at examining the relationship of knowledge, attitudes and experiences to the incidence of violence in adolescents in West Sumatra Province. **Methods:** This research adopts a quantitative approach using a cross-sectional design. As a sampling method, this study used purposive sampling for a total of 109 respondents using a questionnaire measuring instrument distributed using google form. Analysis of the data used in this study with univariate analysis and bivariate analysis using chi-square. **Results:** The results of the analysis show that some respondents have experienced violence, have a high level of knowledge, have a positive attitude, and have never experienced violence. The results of the bivariate analysis showed that there was a relationship between attitudes and the incidence of violence with $p\text{-value} = 0.001$ and experience with violent incidents with $p\text{-value} = 0.000$. **Conclusion:** There is a relationship between attitudes and experiences towards the incidence of violence against adolescents in West Sumatra Province in 2022.

Keywords: Violence, Adolescent, Attitude, Experience

Introduction

Violence against women, including children, remains a significant global issue, as defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). According to WHO, child abuse encompasses various forms, including physical harm, emotional abuse, sexual violence, and neglect, all of which can result in severe consequences for the child's health, survival, or safety. (Mardia, 2018). In 2013, a WHO report stated that 35% of women worldwide had experienced violence. This prevalence was reported in various regions: 25% in the Western Pacific, 25% in Europe, 30% in the Americas, 37% in Africa, 37% in the Eastern Mediterranean, and 38% in Southeast Asia (Dewi, Kurniasari & Widarsa, 2018).

From 2019 to 2021, data from Indonesia's Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Kemen PPPA) showed a growing trend in reported violence against children, which rose from 11,057 cases in 2019 to 14,517 cases by 2021. The Ministry's data reveals that the primary victims are adolescents, including those at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. WHO

describes adolescents as individuals undergoing the transitional phase between childhood and adulthood. While WHO defines adolescence as ranging from ages 12 to 24, Indonesia's Ministry of Health Regulation No. 25 of 2014 defines it as ages 10 to 18. Meanwhile, the National Population and Family Planning Board (BKKBN) classifies adolescents as 10 to 24 years old and unmarried. Therefore, adolescence is a teenage stage where individuals cannot be fully categorized as adults, nor as children (Kemenkes RI, 2020). In West Sumatra Province, data from the Provincial Office of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Kemen PPPA) recorded 199 reported cases of violence from January 2022 up to the present. This indicates that many cases of violence continue to occur, and a number likely go unreported. The data further reveals that victims are primarily adolescents at the elementary, junior high, and senior high school levels, based on educational status (SIMFONI-PPA, 2022).

Factors causing domestic violence are generally categorized into external and internal factors. External factors originate from outside the individual, such as circumstances that place stress on the perpetrator—prolonged economic hardship, infidelity, or other stressful events can trigger violent behavior in someone who may not inherently be aggressive. Internal factors, on the other hand, stem from the individual's own personality traits, such as impulsivity or low emotional regulation, making them more prone to violence (PPA, 2020). According to data from the Office of Women's Empowerment, Child Protection, and Family Planning (PPPA&KB) of Pariaman City, 36 cases of violence were recorded in 2021, an increase from the previous year. All reported cases involved perpetrators who were close to or part of the victim's family (Antara, 2022). This highlights that many victims still lack awareness on how to avoid or report violence.

Method

This study used a quantitative research approach with a cross-sectional design. The research was conducted in West Sumatra Province in 2022. Based on sample size calculations, the minimum number of respondents needed was 109. The sampling technique employed was purposive sampling, and data collection was done using a questionnaire distributed through Google Forms. Data analysis included both univariate analysis and bivariate analysis, with the Chi-square test used to determine the relationship between the variables.

Results

According to the data presented in Table 6.1, 58.7% of respondents reported having experienced violence. In terms of knowledge, 52.3% of adolescents demonstrated a high level of awareness about violence. Additionally, 51.4% of the adolescents displayed a positive attitude toward violence, while 48.6% of respondents had past experiences with violence.

Table 1 Univariate Analysis of the Relationship between Knowledge, Attitudes, and Experiences and the Incidence of Violence among Adolescents in West Sumatra

No	Variable	N (%)
<u>Dependent Variable</u>		
1	Incidents of Violence	
	Ever	64 (58.7)
	Not	45 (41.3)
<u>Independent Variable</u>		
2	Knowledge	
	Low	52 (47.7)
	High	57 (52.3)
3	Attitude	
	Negative	53 (48.6)
	Positive	56 (51.4)
4	Experience	
	Ever	53 (48.6)
	Not	56 (51.4)

The results of the bivariate analysis, as shown in Table 2, indicated that attitudes had a statistically significant relationship with the incidence of violence (p-value = 0.001). Likewise, prior experience with violence also showed a significant relationship (p-value = 0.000). The odds ratio (OR) of 4.10 for negative attitudes suggests that adolescents with negative attitudes are 4.1 times more likely to encounter violence.

Moreover, the OR of 7.16 indicated that adolescents who had previously experienced violence were 7.16 times more likely to experience violence again. Despite no significant correlation between knowledge and the incidence of violence (p-value = 0.248), adolescents with low levels of knowledge were 1.7 times more likely to experience violence, which suggests a potential link but without statistical significance.

Table 2 Bivariate Analysis of the Relationship between Knowledge, Attitudes, and Experiences and the Incidence of Violence among Adolescents in West Sumatra

No	Variable	Incidents of Violence		OR	95% CI	.sig
		Ever N (%)	Not N (%)			
1	Knowledge					
	Low	34 (65.4)	18 (34.6)			
	High	30 (52.6)	27 (47.4)	1.70	0.78 – 3.68	0.248
2	Attitude					
	Negative	40 (75.5)	13 (24.5)			
	Positive	24 (42.9)	32 (57.1)	4.10	1.80 – 9.31	0.001*
3	Experience					
	Ever	43 (81.1)	10 (18.9)			
	Not	21 (37.5)	25 (62.5)	7.16	2.98 – 17.19	0.000*

Discussion

Knowledge and the Incidence of Violence among Adolescents

The results of the study showed that 52.6% of respondents who had experienced violence possessed a high level of knowledge. However, the Chi-square test revealed a p-value of 0.248, indicating no significant relationship between knowledge and the incidence of violence among adolescents. It is possible that adolescents' knowledge was passive, not internalized, or not accompanied by the capacity to act. In violent situations, adolescents may feel trapped or powerless, and their knowledge may not be sufficient to influence decision-making.

This finding is consistent with the study by Ariestina (2009), which also reported no significant relationship between knowledge and the incidence of violence. However, this contrasts with the findings of Husni, Firdawati, and Abdiana (2020), who reported a significant correlation, suggesting that contextual and demographic differences may influence study outcomes.

Knowledge is defined as the result of awareness gained through sensory perception—vision, hearing, smell, taste, and touch (Triwibowo & Pusphandani, 2015). Theoretically, knowledge is part of the cognitive domain in Bloom's taxonomy, which states that knowledge is the most basic level necessary before developing attitudes and behaviors (Notoatmodjo, 2012). However, behavioral change requires more than knowledge; it also involves affective (attitudes) and psychomotor (actions) components.

In this study, despite the high level of knowledge among most respondents, they had still experienced violence. This suggests that knowledge alone is insufficient, and other contributing factors must be addressed to reduce the risk of violence.

Attitudes and the Incidence of Violence among Adolescents

The results showed a significant relationship between attitudes and the incidence of violence, with a p-value of 0.001. More than half of the respondents (75.5%) with negative attitudes had experienced violence. This indicates that individual attitudes toward violence contribute to the risk of experiencing violence, both as a victim or perpetrator.

Attitude is defined as a person's covert response or reaction to a stimulus, reflecting their tendency to act positively or negatively toward an object (Azwar, 2013). According to the ABC model (Affect, Behavior, Cognition) in social psychology, attitude consists of three components: affective (feelings), cognitive (beliefs), and conative (action tendencies) (Triandis, 1971).

Negative attitudes toward violence can stem from factors such as past experiences, environmental pressures, or social learning. According to Bandura's Social Learning Theory, individuals may adopt violent attitudes or behaviors by observing and imitating models (e.g., parents, peers, or public figures) who exhibit aggression without consequences (Bandura, 1977; Azwar, 2013).

In this study, adolescents with negative attitudes may have perceived violence as acceptable or felt unable to resist it due to fear, threats, or lack of access to support systems. This is worsened by unsupportive environments—social stigma, limited legal protection, or intimidation from perpetrators. As Mardiyati (2015) explains, individuals who experience violence may lose their ability to think rationally and choose to remain silent due to fear or pressure.

Discrepancies with previous findings, such as those of Husni, Firdawati, and Abdiana (2020), who found no significant association, may be due to differences in the study population, measurement tools, or sociocultural context. Nonetheless, this study highlights the need for interventions that target adolescents' affective aspects, including character education, conflict resolution training, and psychological counseling.

Experience and the Incidence of Violence among Adolescents

The study also revealed a highly significant relationship between previous experience and the incidence of violence, with a p-value of 0.000. A total of 81.1% of respondents with prior experiences of violence reported repeated occurrences. This reinforces the theory that past experiences are a primary risk factor in the cycle of violence among adolescents.

According to the Cycle of Violence Theory (Walker, 1979), individuals who have been victims of violence are more likely to be caught in a repetitive pattern of abuse. Past trauma makes it difficult for victims to form healthy relationships, trust others, or respond to conflict adaptively. If left unaddressed, these experiences create deep psychological wounds that can lead to further victimization or even perpetration of violence.

This explanation is supported by Bandura's Social Learning Theory (1977), which posits that violent behavior is learned through observation and imitation. Children and adolescents who witness or experience domestic violence may internalize such behaviors as acceptable strategies for resolving conflict. Mardiyati (2015) similarly notes that children raised in violent households are at high risk of becoming victims or perpetrators of violence in the future.

Previous trauma can also lead to long-term psychological effects, such as depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, or Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). In this study, respondents may not have received adequate intervention—such as counseling or support from family or community—making them more vulnerable to further victimization due to a lack of resilience or coping mechanisms. In addition, strengthening school-based violence prevention programs can reduce the risk of violence among adolescents (WHO,2024).

These findings are consistent with those of Soeli et al. (2019), who also identified a strong relationship between past experiences and present incidents of violence. Thus, prior experiences of violence among adolescents should be taken seriously, with emphasis on trauma recovery, rehabilitation, and strengthening support systems within families, schools, and communities.

Conclusion

Knowledge, attitudes, and experiences related to the incidence of violence in West Sumatra Province are interconnected. A variety of internal and external factors influence violence among adolescents. Adolescents require a comprehensive understanding of what constitutes violence, how to prevent it, and the confidence to take action when they encounter it. Moreover, the roles of parents, peers, and teachers are essential in supporting adolescents and preventing both victimization and perpetration of violence.

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