

Holistic Approach in Handling Street Children at the Aulia Qurrota Aini Foundation

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ABSTRACT

Street children are children who spend most of their time on the streets earning a living or hanging out on the streets and in public places. We can find them in various public places such as red lights, in front of shopping centers and other places. The purpose of this study is to determine how the holistic approach affects the handling of street children at the Aulia Qurrota Aini Foundation. The type of method used in this research is to use qualitative methods, namely by conducting observations and interviews as well as literature review, which is a research method that seeks to understand a particular phenomenon or context through descriptive and interpretative methods. This research was conducted at the Aulia Qurrota Aini Foundation which coincides on Jl. Karomatul Auliya Mosque, Kramatwatu, Kec. Kramatwatu, Serang Regency, Banten. Field observations were carried out at Yayasan Aulia Qurrota Aini, where this place is a place to see how children can develop and how they can receive education in general. In the implementation of holistic assistance in dealing with these street children, by providing lessons on awareness of the importance of education. Aulia Qurrota Aini Foundation's holistic approach to the care of street children shows that comprehensive and integrated handling can have a significant impact on improving the quality of life of street children. This approach involves various aspects of the child's life, including education, health services, psychosocial support and vocational training.

Keywords: *Street Children; Holistic Approach.*

INTRODUCTION

Education in human life is very necessary because education is a process to improve the quality of human life for the better. Education is an important factor in human life, because education plays a very important role in advancing human dignity, maintaining and developing cultural values. Moreover, in the era of globalization, the development of science and technology has become so rapid that people do not necessarily have the opportunity to adapt by promoting their potential. According to the United Nations, street children are children who spend most of their time on the streets working, playing, or doing other activities. Street children live on the streets because they are abandoned or discarded by their families due to poverty and broken families. Street children are children who spend most of their time on the streets earning a living or hanging out on the streets and in public places. We can find them in various public places such as red lights, in front of shopping centers and other places. Often, they make a living by selling tissues, busking, becoming scavengers, and accompanying their mothers to beg because of the inability of parents to support their children, which encourages their children to take to the streets. It is not uncommon to face the risk of traffic accidents, illegal fees, fights and other violence.

Law No. 4 of 1979 concerning child welfare and Law No. 23 of 2002 concerning child protection. The law on child welfare prioritizes the survival of children by fulfilling all needs, nurturing, guiding and caring for children properly. The law on child protection focuses on protecting children and their rights from various threats of harm such as physical violence (torture or abuse), sexual violence, and mental violence that is directly related to the law. In reality, the rights and needs of children have not been met as required by law. This is related to the main factor that helps the survival of children, also known as street children. In Indonesia, the phenomenon of street children is something we often face.

Living as a street child is not their choice. Children who are supposed to have a comfortable life should not be in this situation, but the concern about the situation of street children has not received much attention and resolution. According to Law No. 35 of 2014 on child protection and the renewal of Law No. 23 of 2002, "every child has the right to receive education and teaching in order to develop his/her personality and intelligence level in accordance with his/her interests, including street children." The human rights listed in Law No. 39 of 1999 on human rights and Presidential Decree No. 36 of 1990 on the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Street children who are generally at a fairly productive age and especially at school age, those who have the same opportunities as other children, street children are citizens who are entitled to education services but on the other hand they cannot leave the habit of earning a living on the streets. The government and social organizations have made efforts to overcome cases such as street children, whose numbers continue to increase every year. Data from the Ministry of Social Affairs shows that there were 67,368 neglected children in Indonesia in 2020. This shows the need to empower street children through joint efforts between the government, social organizations and the community.

Factors that can motivate street children, such as domestic violence, physical and mental abuse, and the desire to live independently and have their own income, are major challenges. Therefore, empowering street children is an important step to help them get better life opportunities. Empowerment of street children not only includes the provision of shelter and support from NGOs but also includes educational aspects aimed at improving the value of education. The biggest obstacle is changing the perception of street children that school is not necessary. Therefore, a holistic approach is needed to help street children better understand the value of education and the potential for a better life off the streets. The experience of living as a street child can have a significant impact on a child's physical, emotional and social development. Street children often face challenges such as lack of access to better education, health and economic opportunities. To overcome these problems, the Aulia Qurrota Aini Foundation seeks to assist and support street children through various programs and services. The purpose of this study is to determine how the holistic approach affects the handling of street children at the Aulia Qurrota Aini Foundation.

RESEARCH METHODS

The type of method used in this research is using a qualitative method in which the researcher conducts observations and interviews as well as literature review. In this research method, which seeks to understand a particular phenomenon or context through descriptive and interpretative methods. The main emphasis is on an in-depth understanding of the meaning, perceptions and context relevant to participants in the situation under study. Data collection was conducted through a systematic review approach by analyzing research papers found through the internet, namely Google Scholar. Manuscripts were obtained from national sources registered for the last 5 years.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Result

In carrying out various processes of this research, one of them is observation activities in the field based on observation. Observations made in the field took place at the Aulia Qurrota Aini Foundation, which is a place to see how children can develop and how they can receive education in general. In the implementation of holistic assistance in dealing with these street children, by providing lessons on awareness of the importance of education. This is done by providing counseling and guidance for street children. Based on the results of interviews and observations conducted by researchers, it can be seen that the Aulia Qurrota Aini Foundation conducts counseling and guidance to street children by socializing to parents, street children and preparing educational materials so that children are more interested. To participate in the mentoring process. The program provided by this foundation in its assistance is in the form of TEPAK (Temu Penguatan Anak) where street children are given education and motivation about mental, physical and spiritual. Not only street children but also their parents are fair in the mentoring process by being given education about parenting for children.

Discussion

Street children have different characteristics. These characteristics can be divided into physical and psychological. Physically, street children are often thin, dirty, wear shabby clothes, and have

disheveled hair. This shows that they lack attention. Psychologically, their characteristics change significantly depending on the conditions and circumstances. Abandoned children who experience financial difficulties are often independent, hardworking and have many friends. However, they may face time constraints for optimal production or development. At the age when children are considered capable of working effectively, they often have time to play, rest and receive more attention from their family or parents. In contrast, neglected children who experience problems in their upbringing (such as domestic violence) or due to the loss of parents (orphans) often have a quiet and sad personality, feel lonely and emotionally helpless. However, there are differences in these characteristics, depending on whether some children are sociable and have friends or not, and some children feel lonely. In the right context, a good environment can be mutually beneficial, where children can have friends and feel treated like family. Bandura (2018) Albert Bandura in updating his social learning theory emphasized that effective extension should include models that are believable and relevant to people. Successful counseling not only provides information but also influences attitudes and beliefs through observation and imitation.

Garmezy (2019), Norman Garmezy, in his research on child resilience, argues that child mentoring should include ongoing emotional and social support, especially for children who have experienced trauma or adversity. Effective mentoring helps children develop self-confidence and psychological resilience. Child mentoring counseling and guidance are essentially based on the same principle of providing information guidance and support to help children overcome difficulties and develop their potential. Child guidance counseling is an interactive process that provides information, guidance and support to children to help them overcome difficulties, develop their potential and achieve their desired goals. Child counselling and mentoring involves providing information and knowledge to children on various related topics such as health, education and social life. The aim is to increase their understanding and provide a good foundation of knowledge. On the other hand, child mentoring involves providing assistance and guidance to children when facing problems or difficult situations. This can include giving advice, teaching them new skills or helping them develop problem-solving strategies.

The goal is to help children overcome barriers and develop the skills needed for personal and academic success. In addition to providing information and guidance, child counseling and mentoring also involves providing emotional support. This means paying attention, listening with empathy, and building a positive relationship with the child. This emotional support is important in helping children feel supported, accepted and valued. Child counselling and mentoring can be done by various professionals, such as psychologists, counselors, teachers or parents. The methods used may vary, including face-to-face sessions, discussion groups, or educational materials that can be accessed online. The main goal of child counseling and mentoring is to help children develop their potential. Overcoming obstacles and achieving personal and academic happiness. Thanks to this support, children can grow and develop better. Aulia Qurrota Aini Foundation can provide counseling and guidance to street children by approaching parents and street children. Prepare educational materials so that children are more interested in participating in the mentoring process.

According to Syaharuddin, S., et al (2021). Street children often face unique and complex challenges in accessing education. Factors such as poverty, family instability and discrimination can hinder street children's access to education. Therefore, comprehensive efforts from the government, communities and relevant organizations are needed to ensure street children have equal educational opportunities. Efforts to provide educational opportunities to street children have been the focus of attention in recent decades. Many organizations and institutions are committed to fighting for the rights of street children, including the right to a full education. Along with increased awareness, many countries have also adopted inclusive education policies and programs for street children. This is to ensure that street children have equal access to education and the protection and support they need. The main function of the Aulia Qurrota Aini Foundation is to educate children who are in difficult circumstances, so that one day they can improve their family's economy in the future. In their deprived condition, children and parents can only hope for people who sympathize with the lives of the little people, such as scavengers and other underprivileged people. An alternative activity that street children may be able to experience is participating in learning activities in public spaces, such as city squares, shelters or foundations for street children to learn.

CONCLUSIONS

Yayasan Aulia Qurrata Aini's holistic approach to the care of street children shows that comprehensive and integrated care can have a significant impact on improving the quality of life of street children. This approach involves various aspects of children's lives, including education, health services, psychosocial support and vocational training. The education programs offered do not only focus on formal education, but also include non-formal education and life skills, helping children return to school or obtain education tailored to their needs. By integrating various important aspects of children's lives, the foundation not only improves their physical and mental well-being but also equips them with the tools and skills needed to have a better bright future. This approach can serve as a model for other organizations in the global effort to address street children, emphasizing the importance of sustainable, integrated and community-based copper support.

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