

Violence in Early Childhood: A Systematic Literature

Review

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received: August 1, 2025

Accepted: October 16, 2025

Available online on:
October 28, 2025

Keywords:

*Child Abuse; Forms of Violence;
Age 5-6 Years*

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Muhammadiyah Tangerang

ABSTRACT

This study examines the violence that is often experienced by children in early childhood, aiming to identify the forms of violence that are often experienced by children aged 5-6 years. The method used is Systematic Literature Review with literature obtained from Google Scholar using the help of Publish or Perish. Ten articles being obtained and being review. The results of the study show that physical violence and verbal violence are forms of violence that are often experienced by early childhood, especially at the age of 5-6 years. This violence is often carried out by parents, especially with authoritarian parenting. The impact of violence experienced by children can affect children's growth and development.

Introduction

Early childhood is the period from birth to age 0-6, during which children are in a period of growth and development in various aspects such as physical, mental, personality, and thinking skills. They need the right stimulation to develop optimally. Therefore, children's physical, emotional, and mental needs need to be taken into account properly and

in balance (Efrikha et al., 2024). Currently, many cases occur in early childhood, especially at the age of 5-6 years, which has a big impact on their future. At the age of 5-6 years, children are able to understand their environment well so that they can assess how they are positioned in a certain environment (Ningsih et al., 2022). One of the cases that children often experience is violence. Violence against children does not only occur in the family environment, but can also occur in the school environment, which should be a place to gain knowledge and stimulation to grow and develop (Wulandari et al., 2023).

Law Number 23 of 2002 on Child Protection states that every child has the right to protection from violence, both physical and verbal. However, cases of violence against children still often occur in the domestic environment (Apisah et al., 2024). Based on data from the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (2024), violence against children most often occurs at home with parents as the main perpetrators. This violence not only hurts physically, but also affects children's mental health, interferes with learning abilities, and hinders children's cognitive development (Talango et al., 2020). In the parenting process, parental parenting and how family upbringing will affect the quality of the child's character (Wulandari et al., 2023).

Children's growth and development are influenced by various factors, ranging from the family environment to government policies. Violence against children can occur due to poor interaction in one of these environments, such as authoritarian parenting or a lack of

adequate legal protection. Therefore, violence in early childhood needs to be seen from various perspectives, including the role of parents, schools, the surrounding environment, and applicable cultural values. This is in line with the developmental theory from Bronfenbrenner (1979), which states that child development does not occur alone, but is formed through dynamic interactions between children and various environmental systems that are complexly interconnected. Therefore, it is very important for parents and the government to create a safe, comfortable, wholesome environment, and encourage children's development so that they can grow and develop properly and have a solid fundament for their life (Agustin et al., 2025).

Violence is an act that is done deliberately to hurt, injure, or harm others, both physically and psychologically (Buulolo, 2023). Violence is often used as a tool to achieve a certain goal or to show power and dominance (Noviyanti et al., 2023). The forms of violence, according to the World Health Organization, are physical violence, sexual violence, emotional violence, and economic violence. Children who experience repeated acts of violence tend to show negative behavior. This behavior can be in the form of difficulties in establishing social relationships or doing actions that can harm oneself (Margareta et al., 2020).

According to the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection of the Republic of Indonesia, OCSEA (Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse) is a form of violence against children that is increasingly worrying in this digital era. The Deputy for the Fulfillment

of Children's Rights of the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection stated that early childhood is a target of sexual exploitation and violence through a combination of online and face-to-face interactions between perpetrators and victims.

Muarif et al. (2020) show that the most frequent forms of violence that occur and are carried out by parents on children are pinching, glaring, and comparing children with other children. The causes of this ruthless behavior include the desire of parents to discipline the child, the parents' view that the child is wayward, and the desire to punish. The impact can be seen in children who often cry or just stay silent.

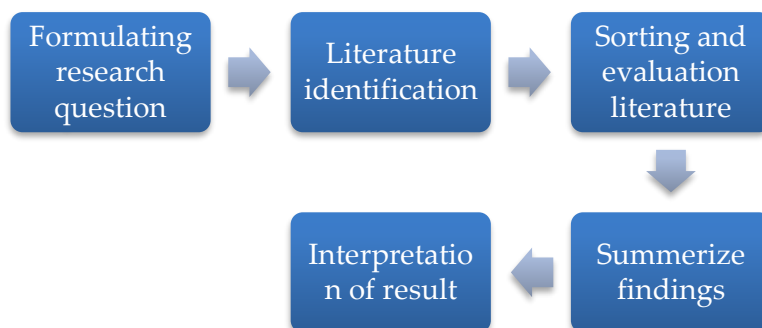
In this study, the researcher wants to examine more deeply what forms of violence often occur in children age 5-6 years, aiming to identify the forms of violence that are most often experienced by children aged 5-6 years.

Methods

The method used in this study is a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) with a qualitative approach. This method requires researchers to analyze and determine articles in a structured manner by following the stages which has been specified (Triandini et al., 2024). Khan (in Puspita et al., 2021), stated that the Systematic Literature Review method is divided into five stages, namely (1) formulating research questions, (2) searching for and identifying articles that are relevant to the research topic, (3) grouping and evaluating the articles that have been collected, (4) summarizing the findings of the articles that have been obtained, and

(5) describing the results obtained.

Picture 1. Stages of Systematic Literature Review techniques



Researchers collected journal articles using the keywords child abuse, forms of violence, age 5-6 years, or a combination of the three. Data collection was obtained from national journals related to keywords obtained from Google Scholar and Publish or Perish (PoP). The 200 articles obtained were then selected to 52 because the literature came from books, theses, and articles that were locked. In addition, the article also contains violence that does not occur in aged 5-6 years and articles in English. Then, 52 articles were sorted again into 22 articles, and then 10 articles were selected. The 10 articles were read and re-sorted into 5 articles that matched the inclusion criteria.

The articles selected according to the inclusion criteria that have been determined are articles published in 2015-2025, containing about violence against children aged 5-6 years, using Indonesian, and research in Indonesian territory. Meanwhile, articles that are not selected are articles with exclusion criteria, such as articles that are not published in the range of 2015-2025, violence experienced by children who are not 5-

6 years old, articles in English, and research outside Indonesia.

Result and Discussions

The results and discussion of the literature that have been obtained as data in this study are as follows.

Table 1. Article Identity and Article Results

Article Identity	Article Results
Author: Agni Herlin Apisah, Miftachul Jannah, Shalihat Nur Fitriyah S. Year: 2024. Issue: 3. Volume: 3. Page: 204-218. Journal: Jurnal Ilmu Pendidikan dan Sosial. Title: <i>Dampak Kekerasan Orang Tua Terhadap Perkembangan Kognitif Anak Usia 5-6 Tahun di TK Al Faruqi Tahun 2024/2025 (Penelitian Studi Kasus di TK Al Faruqi Kecamatan Maniis Kabupaten Purwakarta)</i>	Physical and verbal violence that is often committed by parents against aged 5-6 years at Al Faruqi Kindergarten has negative impact on children's development and mental health.
Author: Silvia Ningsih, Yeni Solfiah, Ria Noviyanti. Year: 2022. Issue: 4. Volume: 3. Page: 1113. Journal: Jurnal PAJAR (Pendidikan dan Pengajaran). Title: <i>Hubungan Kekerasan Verbal dengan Kepercayaan Diri Anak Usia 5-6 Tahun di Lundar, Kecamatan Panti, Provinsi Sumatera Barat</i>	The results of the research show that there is a relationship between verbal violence and children's self-esteem. Most children aged 5-6 years experience high verbal violence, which causes a low level of children's self-esteem.
Author: Arsyia Fajarrini, Ichsan. Year: 2023. Issue: 1. Volume: 4. Page: 1. Journal: Zuriah (Jurnal Pendidikan Anak Usia Dini). Title: <i>Perilaku Kekerasan Verbal Orang Tua Terhadap Kepercayaan</i>	Violence committed by parents against children has negative effects on children's psychological and social development. Children who experience frequent verbal abuse will withdraw from the

<i>Diri Anak Usia 5-6 Tahun</i>	social environment and have low self-confidence.
Author: Beatriks Novianti Bunga, Sartika Kale, Margaritha Soi Maure, Engelbertus Ngalu Bali. Year: 2022. Issue: 6. Volume: 6. Page: 5923-5932. Journal: Jurnal Obsesi. Title: <i>Kekerasan Verbal Orang Tua dan Rasa Percaya Diri Anak Usia Dini di Kelurahan Mutiara, Kabupaten Alor, NTT</i>	The results of the research show that there is an influence of parental verbal violence on children's confidence. One of the factors that causes verbal violence is that parents never come into contact with good parenting knowledge.
Author: Elina Novita Sari, Ulwan Syafrudin, Annisa Yulistia. Year: 2024. Issue: 2. Volume: 3. Page: 74-91. Journal: AUDIENSI (Jurnal Pendidikan dan Perkembangan Anak). Title: <i>Dampak Kekerasan Verbal Orang Tua pada Perkembangan Sosioemosional Anak Usia Dini</i>	Children who experience verbal abuse tend to avoid social activities and prefer to play alone. On the other hand, children who do not experience verbal violence will be more active with their peers and open to expressing their feelings.
Author: Jaja Suteja, Bahrul Ulum. Year: 2019. Issue: 2. Volume: 1. Page: 170–174. Journal: <i>Equalita</i> . Title: <i>Dampak Kekerasan Orang Tua terhadap Kondisi Psikologis Anak dalam Keluarga</i>	The study reveals that parental violence mostly causes psychological abuse that negatively affects children's cognitive, affective, and psychomotor development. Such acts, including yelling, threats, and humiliation, hinder children's emotional growth and mental stability.
Author: Alit Kurniasari. Year: 2019. Issue: 1. Volume: 5. Page: 15–18. Journal: <i>Sosio Informa</i> . Title: <i>Dampak Kekerasan pada Kepribadian Anak</i>	Violence committed by parents or caregivers can shape a child's personality to become permissive, depressive, destructive, or aggressive. Continuous exposure to physical or emotional abuse

	disturbs psychological well-being and increases the likelihood of maladaptive behaviors in adulthood.
Author: Evi Widowati, Widya Hary Cahyati. Year: 2019. Issue: 1. Volume: 12. Page: 65–74. Journal: <i>Palastren</i> . Title: <i>Kejadian Kekerasan terhadap Anak Tenaga Kerja Indonesia di Kabupaten Kendal</i>	Violence against children of migrant workers is strongly related to parental absence, low education, and poor financial management. The study shows that lack of emotional support and inappropriate caregiving increases the risk of children’s exposure to violence and psychological distress.
Author: Tri Sella Margareta, Melinda Puspita Sari Jaya. Year: 2020. Issue: 2. Volume: 18. Page: 171–180. Journal: <i>Wahana Didaktika</i> . Title: <i>Kekerasan pada Anak Usia Dini (Studi Kasus pada Anak Umur 6–7 Tahun di Kertapati)</i>	The case study finds that parental violence toward early-age children causes emotional trauma, low self-esteem, loss of motivation, and aggressive or withdrawn behavior. Physical punishment leads to both mental and physical health problems in children.
Author: Ni Putu Mayunda Meidalinda, David Hizkia Tobing. Year: 2024. Issue: 2. Volume: 4. Page: 4131–4144. Journal: <i>Innovative: Journal of Social Science Research</i> . Title: <i>Gambaran Kekerasan Verbal oleh Orang Tua terhadap Anak-Anak di Indonesia</i>	The study identifies that verbal abuse by parents results in developmental delays, trauma, reduced self-confidence, and aggressive tendencies in children. Key contributing factors include low parental knowledge, poor emotional regulation, and socio-economic stress.

Research (Apisah et al., 2024) shows that physical and verbal violence committed by parents against children aged 5-6 years in Al Faruqi Kindergarten has a negative effect on children's thinking ability

and mental health. This violence is often caused by economic factors, emotional pressure, and social norms that do not support positive parenting. Children who experience violence tend to have difficulty concentrating, memory difficulties, learning disabilities, developmental delays, and deviant behavior. In addition, inconsistent parenting and an unstable family environment can also worsen children's developmental conditions.

Ningsih et al. (2022) Their research also states that most children aged 5-6 years experience a high level of verbal violence, and there is a relationship between verbal violence and children's self-esteem, which means that the higher verbal abuse received, getting lower the child's level of self-esteem. This study emphasizes the importance of attention to parenting and family environment that supports children's psychological development positively, as well as the need for education and intervention from families and the government to reduce verbal violence and increase children's confidence.

Research conducted by Fajarrini & Ichsan (2023) shows that verbal violence committed by parents against early childhood, especially children aged 5-6 years, has a significant negative impact on children's psychological and social development. Authoritarian parenting, lack of effective communication, and external factors such as economic conditions and lack of emotional closeness create this situation. Verbal violence in the form of threats, shouting, insults, and negative labels causes children to become inferior, behave aggressively, have difficulty

socializing, and reduce self-confidence. In addition, the educational and economic background of parents can affect parenting and the level of verbal violence committed. This is made clear in the research by Bunga et al. (2022), which states that parents who often give affection and good treatment to children will also respond well to children's growth and development. On the other hand, if parents often do verbal work, the child's confidence level will decrease.

Sari et al. (2024) In their research, it was stated that children who experience verbal violence have a high risk of emotional disorders such as anxiety, depression, and insecurity, which can lead to low-income society and low achievement. In addition, it can also damage the relationship between parents and children and hinders children's communication skills.

Suteja and Ulum (2019) demonstrated that parental violence often manifests as psychological abuse, such as yelling, threatening, or humiliating, which hinders children's emotional balance and cognitive development. The findings highlight that psychological violence tends to leave deeper and longer-lasting effects than physical punishment.

Kurniasari (2019) further explained that continuous exposure to violence during early personality formation leads children to develop depressive, aggressive, or deviant behaviors. Prolonged emotional and physical abuse disrupts children's attachment security, resulting in difficulties in social adjustment and empathy formation.

Similarly, Widowati and Cahyati (2019) found that violence

frequently occurs among children whose parents work as migrant laborers. Limited parental supervision, low education, and economic stress contribute significantly to the incidence of child maltreatment. Their study indicates that inadequate caregiving and emotional neglect increase children's vulnerability to both physical and emotional violence.

Margareta and Jaya (2020) identified that violence against early childhood causes not only physical harm but also psychological trauma. The affected children tend to show low motivation, diminished self-esteem, and unstable emotions. Some become aggressive in social settings, while others turn passive or withdrawn at home, reflecting the dual impact of fear and emotional confusion.

The most recent study by Meidalinda and Tobing (2024) focused on verbal violence and revealed that harsh speech, insults, and yelling by parents can lead to developmental delays, trauma, low self-confidence, and aggressive tendencies. The authors pointed out that low emotional maturity and limited parenting knowledge are major factors behind the persistence of such behavior.

Discussion

The overall findings indicate that parental violence, whether physical or verbal, exerts a profound negative influence on children's cognitive, emotional, and social development. Acts of violence such as shouting, scolding, hitting, or humiliation lead to psychological distress that interferes with children's ability to think, focus, and learn

effectively. Children exposed to such treatment often display low self-esteem, anxiety, and unstable emotions, which hinder their social interactions and overall adjustment. Moreover, continuous exposure to violence at an early age disrupts the formation of secure attachment and emotional regulation, leading to behavioral problems such as aggression, withdrawal, and a loss of motivation to engage in learning activities.

The evidence also suggests that violent parenting behavior is often rooted in economic difficulties, emotional instability, low parental education, and inadequate knowledge of positive parenting. These factors contribute to inconsistent parenting practices and an unsupportive family atmosphere, both of which further exacerbate children's developmental challenges. When parents lack emotional control and effective communication skills, the home environment becomes a source of stress rather than security. Consequently, children who grow up in violent and emotionally unstable households are more likely to experience learning delays, reduced confidence, and difficulty in forming healthy relationships. These findings highlight the urgent need for preventive measures through parent education, emotional regulation training, and strengthened family counseling programs to promote nurturing and violence-free parenting practices.

Conclusion

Violence in early childhood is increasing year by year. The many forms of violence experienced by children can affect their growth and

development. Based on the results of the literature review that has been obtained, it can be concluded that physical and verbal violence is the most common form of violence experienced by early childhood, specially at the age of 5-6 years. The violence often carried out by parents under the pretext of disciplining children, and many parents are not aware that they are committing violence against children. This is due to a lack of knowledge about violence, especially verbal violence and its impact on children.

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