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The Analysis of The Influence of Information about The Covid-19 Pandemic on Toddlers' Parenting



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Abstract

The government's policy in implementing the New Normal to prevent the spread of COVID-19 has changed all aspects of society, including the family environment. In current conditions, parenting is the most important thing in determining optimal child development (Dewi and Khotimah, 2020). The conditions of parenting and communication in the family have both positive and negative impacts on children's development. (Kuswanti, Munadhil, Zainal & Oktarina, 2020). The aim of this study was to analyze the effect of information about the COVID-19 pandemic on toddlers' parenting. This study was a cross-sectional analytical study. This study used a bivariate data analysis with Chi Square test. The findings showed that the p-value was $(0.0001) < 0.05$, so it could be concluded that there was a significant influence between the received information and toddlers' parenting. Therefore, it is necessary to have the right information about the COVID-19 pandemic so that mothers can make the right and correct choices about parenting for toddlers.

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INTRODUCTION

Based on the COVID-19 Dashboard Data by the Centre for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at Johns Hopkins University, the positive cases of COVID-19 worldwide were 113 million. In the US, 123 or 5% of COVID-19 cases occurred in children as of March 16, 2020 (Stephanie et al, 2020). In Indonesia, based on the COVID-19 distribution map on the covid19.go.id page as of February 15, 2021, there were 1,314,634 positive confirmed cases with the addition of 8,493 new cases and 35,518 deaths. In East Java, the prevalence of positive confirmed cases was 122,807 or 10% of the national cases. Based on the *Jatim Tanggap COVID-19* website, the prevalence in Malang Regency was 2,309 positive confirmed cases and 5,996 positive confirmed cases in Malang city as of 25 February 2021. Meanwhile, children in Indonesia who were infected with COVID-19 as of 10 August 2020 were 3,928 children and 59 death cases for children. That prevalence is the highest case in Asia (Pranita et al, 2020). The Indonesian Pediatrician Association submitted the data of children's death due to COVID-19 as of July 20, 2020. The data showed that 70% of the children's death cases from COVID-19 were children under the age of 6 which included 2% of children aged 0 to 28 days, 33% aged 29 days to 11 months 29 days, and 25% aged one year to 5 years 11 months 29 days (Wuragil & Antara, 2020).

COVID-19 has been declared as a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) on March 11, 2020 (WHO, 2020). Thus, every country including Indonesia must update the data of confirmed cases. Therefore, the information about COVID-19 is very easily accepted and accessed by the public, both through printed and electronic media, either fact or hoaxes, so can bring up various responses from the information receivers (Faizah, 2020). The response of information can cause disturbances for some people, especially those who have the potential for mental instability so that it can lead to conditions such as anxiety, panic and fear among people from various groups, one of which is a group of mothers who have toddlers.

The COVID-19 that has spread in Indonesia and the government's policy in implementing the New Normal to prevent the spread of COVID-19 have changed all aspects of society, including the family environment. In current conditions, parenting is the most important thing in determining optimal child development (Dewi and Khotimah, 2020). According to Hurlock (2000), the treatment of parents to children will affect the children's attitudes and behaviour. The conditions of parenting and communication in the family have both positive and negative impacts on children's development.

METHODS

This study was an analytical cross-sectional study. The study was carried out for 1 year starting from February 2021 to February 2022 in Pandansari village, Poncokusumo district, Malang regency. The population in this study was in accordance with predetermined criteria, which was mothers who had children aged under five and were willing to be participants in Pandansari village, Poncokusumo district, Malang regency as many as 150 people. The sampling technique in this study was cluster random sampling. The sample study was mothers with toddler in Pandansari village, Poncokusumo district, Malang regency as many as 109 people. The dependent variable was toddler's parenting, The independent variable was the analysis of influence of information about the Covid-19 pandemic. The instrument used a questionnaire that had been tested for validity and reliability which resulted all questions were valid.

RESULTS

The measuring instrument using a questionnaire with 25 question items had been submitted. The validity test results were valid, because the calculated R value (Corrected Item-Total Correlation) > R table was (0.404). After testing the validity, then the reliability test was conducted. From the reliability test, it was known that the 25 question items that had been tested were valid and declared reliable so that all questions in the questionnaire could be used.

1. Respondents' characteristics**Table 1: Frequency distribution based on respondents' characteristics**

Respondents' characteristics		Total	
		N	(%)
Mother's age	▪ Early adolescence (12–16 years old)	0	0
	▪ Late adolescence (17–25 years old)	9	8,2
	▪ Early adult (26–35 years old)	88	80,0
	▪ Late adult (36–45 years old)	11	10,0
	▪ Early elderly (46–55 years old)	2	1,8
Mother's education	▪ Low education	6	5,5
	▪ Secondary education	97	88,2
	▪ Higher education	7	6,4
Occupation	▪ Not working	64	58,2
	▪ Working	46	41,8
Children's sex	▪ Girl	54	58,2
	▪ Boy	56	41,8

Based on the table 1, it showed that based on the mother's age, the majority of mothers were in the early adult age group (26-35 years old), which was 80%. Based on the education, the majority of mothers with secondary education was (88.2%).

Based on the occupation, most of the mothers did not work, which was 58.2%. Meanwhile, based on the children's sex, most of the toddlers were girls, which was 58.2% compared to 41.8% for boy.

2. Information**Table 2: Frequency distribution of received information related to covid 19**

Variabel information		Total	
		N	(%)
Information	▪ Positive	83	75,5
	▪ Negative	27	24,5

Based on the table 2, it showed that based on the information regarding COVID 19, the

majority of mothers received positive information, which was 75.5%.

3. Toddler's parenting**Table 3: Frequency distribution of toddler's parenting**

Toddler's parenting		Total	
		N	(%)
Parenting	▪ Democratic	73	66,4
	▪ Permissive	26	23,6
	▪ Authoritarian	11	10,0

Based on the table 3, it showed that based on the parenting applied to toddler, the majority of

parents apply democratic parenting, which was 66.4%.

4. The influence of information about the covid 19 pandemic on toddler’s parenting

Table 4: The effect of information on toddler’s parenting

Variable	Parenting			P-Value
	Authoritarian (%)	Permissive (%)	Democratic (%)	
Information ▪ Negative	33,3	40,7	25,9	0,0001
▪ Positive	2,4	18,1	79,5	

The bivariate analysis in this study used the Pearson chi square test. Based on the table 4, it showed that the majority of mothers who received positive information applied democratic parenting to their toddlers, which was 79.5%, compared to 18.1% of other with permissive parenting and 2.4% of mother with authoritarian parenting. Meanwhile, for mothers who received negative information, the majority applied permissive parenting by 40.7%, followed by authoritarian parenting (33.3%) and democratic parenting (25.9%). In addition, the results of the bi-variable analysis also showed that the p-value was (0.0001) < 0.05, so it could be concluded that there was a significant effect between the received information and the toddler’s parenting.

DISCUSSIONS

Information

Based on the results of the study, it was found that the majority of mothers received positive information, which was 75.5% when compared to mothers who received negative information, which was 24.5%. Positive information of COVID-19 pandemic is very necessary for mothers because it can give a positive aura to mothers, especially in providing parenting to their toddlers. This is in accordance with what was revealed by Prameswari (2021), that parents must be careful and precise in determining the parenting style to their children because parenting style is the nature of attitudes towards child rearing (Tsoi et al., 2018). In addition, age and sex differences also need to be a concerned in determining the parenting style that will be applied, so that the right information about parenting during the COVID-19 pandemic is very needed.

Parenting

Based on the results of the study, it can be seen that the majority of parents apply democratic

parenting, which is 66.4%, when compared to permissive parenting (23.6%) and authoritarian parenting (10%). Parenting styles are all forms and processes of interaction that occur between parents and children that can have an influence on the development of the child's personality. The interaction of parents in learning will determine the child’s character later (Rakhmawati, 2015). The parenting style chosen by parents, especially mothers, can affect the development of children later. This is in accordance with the study of Syahrul and Nurhafizah (2021) with the title "Analysis of the Effect of Parenting Patterns on Social and Emotional Development of Early Childhood During the Corona Virus 19 Pandemic" which states that parenting styles on children's emotional abilities during the pandemic are very influential. In addition, according to Tang et al (2021), discussion between parents and children about the pandemic is a very important protective factor, because it can highlight the important role of open communication between parents and children when facing stress and crisis. It is important for parents to be the steering wheel on the learning vehicle by providing guidance and information along the way, so that their children stay on track and are not distracted or hindered from reaching their children's intellectual potential.

The effect of information about the covid 19 pandemic on toddler’s parenting

The results of the analysis showed that mothers who received positive information, majority applied democratic parenting to their toddlers, which was 79.5%, while the mothers who received negative information mostly applied permissive parenting (40.7%). In addition, the results of the bivariable analysis also showed that p-value was 0.0001 < 0.05, so it can be concluded that there is a significant influence between the information received on the toddler’s parenting.

Marcetti et al (2020) say that parenting is a complex and stressful activity, requiring unusual and prolonged involvement in parenting during the Covid-19 pandemic, also the feelings of parents who are emotionally strained and not quite ready to fulfil the demands of parenthood.

The Covid-19 pandemic situation has changed everything. At this time, the role of parents becomes very important as the main determinant in achieving the child's success and happiness. Parents are the most important source of information about their children's emotions (Tsoi et al., 2018). Parents as the closest environment for children, all their attitudes and behavior will become role models for children. This is in accordance with what was stated by Hurlock (2011) that the treatment of parents to their children will affect the attitudes and behavior of children. Parenting by parents to their children will have a positive or negative impact on children's development. Therefore, proper information is needed about the Covid-19 pandemic so that mothers can choose the right parenting style for their children during the Covid-19 pandemic.

CONCLUSIONS

The results showed that the majority of mothers who received positive information applied democratic parenting to their toddlers, which was 79.5%. Meanwhile, for mothers who received negative information, the majority applied permissive parenting (40.7%). In addition, the results of the bivariable analysis also show that the p-value was $0.0001 < 0.05$ so it can be concluded that there is a significant effect between the received information and the toddler's parenting.

SUGGESTION

Based on the results of the study, we provide advice for parents to become role models, provide guidance and information throughout their child's life journey, so that their children stay on track and are not disturbed or hindered from achieving their child's intelligence potential.

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