

**Case Report****LEGAL CASE AND HEALTH PERSPECTIVE OF BULLYING LEADING TO BLINDNESS****Suyanto¹⁾, Siti Nur Qomariah^{2)*}, Yuanita Syaiful²⁾, Lilis Fatmawati³⁾**¹⁾ Faculty of Law, University of Gresik, Gresik, Indonesia²⁾ Adi Husada Institute of Health Science, Surabaya, Indonesia³⁾ Faculty of Health Science, University of Gresik, Gresik, Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

Background. Bullying has a negative impact on both the perpetrator and the victim. The biggest impact is experienced by victims of bullying. Victims of bullying experience physical or psychological disorders. The purpose of this study was to explain a legal case and health perspective of bullying leading to blindness.

Research Method. This research was a case report. One case of bullying happened in an elementary school in Gresik. The victim (SAH, 8 years old) was a girl who experienced blindness as a result of bullying by her friends at her school.

Findings. On August 7, 2023, SAH was poked in the right eye by a student because he was reluctant to give money. From that incident, SAH's right eye became blind. The incident took place in the hallway inside the school. The bullying happened 1 year ago and continued until SAH became blind. Seeing the case that occurred at an elementary school in Gresik, there was a connection with Law No. 35 of 2014 concerning child protection. Bullying in this case have an impact on physical disorder and psychological disorder for the victim.

Conclusion. There has been an appeal for bullying in the school environment from the Ministry of Education and Culture. The region has even launched anti-bullying. Prevention efforts and literacy regarding bullying are the school's responsibility.

Keywords: Blindness, Bullying, Elementary School.

BACKGROUND

Bullying is an abuse of power intentionally and repeatedly by one or more children towards other children, with the intention of hurting or causing feelings of distress/stress [1]. Bullying is a term that is foreign to most Indonesian people, even though this phenomenon has been going on for a long time and occurs in various aspects of life, including the world of education. Bullying is a phenomenon that is spread throughout the world. The prevalence of bullying is estimated at 8 to 50% in several Asian, American, and European countries. As the years go by, the incidence of bullying among school children in Indonesia increases[2]. The prevalence of bullying in Indonesia was estimated at 10% -16% of elementary school students in grades IV-VI in Indonesia experienced bullying once per week.

Bullying in children most often occurs at school, but not many teachers in Indonesia consider bullying to be a serious problem[3]. Surveys in various parts of the world state that bullying most often occurs at the age of 7 years (second grade of elementary school), and then decreases until the age of 15 years. Another study states that the prevalence of bullying is highest at the ages of 7 years and 10-12 years. Boys are more often involved in bullying than girls[4].

Types of physical bullying, stealing money, and taking/damaging personal property are most often experienced by male victims compared to female victims. Most victims admitted that they received negative treatment from several students or different groups of students. There are no adults who are perpetrators of bullying at school[5]. Seventy-one percent of male victims admitted to being bullied mainly by boys, while 41.2% of female victims admitted to being bullied by both boys and girls. Only 16.1% of male victims admitted that the main perpetrator of bullying was female.

Research about bullying, it was found that 51/65 (78.5%) victims reported the bullying they experienced to others. The 51 victims of bullying who reported it, most victims told their friends, and only 9/51 students told their teachers. Reactions to the report varied, most people who received the report tried to stop the behavior, but the other 25.5% remained silent or did not take the report seriously. The victim's confession of bullying that he experienced was witnessed by the teacher (52/65). Based on the victim's confession, the majority (46/52) of teachers who saw this behavior tried to stop it and only a small portion (6/52) of them did nothing[6].

The proportion of female and male subjects who were involved in bullying behavior was the same (89.7% versus 89.2%). Most female subjects are victims of bullying and are both victims and perpetrators. Compared to male students, female students are more likely to be victims of bullying, while male students are more likely to be perpetrators and victims as well as perpetrators of bullying than female students. In general, students involved in bullying are older (>9 years).

Subjects with low socio-economic status tend to be victims, while subjects with middle and high socio-economic status tend to be both victims and perpetrators. There are no pure perpetrators who come from low socio-economic status. There has been a lot of research on bullying, but no research has discussed the impact of bullying until disability occurs. The purpose of this study was to explain explain a legal case and health perspective of bullying leading to blindness.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research was a case report. Case report that contains a description of the case or problem presented. The case reports in this research present patient cases and legal cases that are considered to have scientific value, in the form of unique cases and are discussed according to the laws and regulations applicable in Indonesia[7, 8]. One case of bullying happened in an elementary school in Gresik. The victim (SAH, 8 years old) was a girl who experienced blindness as a result of bullying by her friends at her school.

FINDINGS

The patient's identity was SAH, eight years old. On 7 August 2023, SAH was poked in the right eye by a student because he was reluctant to give money. From that incident, SAH's right eye became blind. Nursing problems that have been diagnosed were 1)Damage to the integrity of eye tissue, 2)Post Traumatic Syndrome, 3)Risk for Injury, and 4)Risk of Developmental Disorders. Since the bullying incident which resulted in blindness, the patient was treated in hospital for 1 week and continued to rest at home for a while until his condition recovered, especially the symptoms of pain were pain in the right eye, the right eye could not see again (blindness). After carrying out the assessment, SAH experienced a feeling of trauma following the bullying incident he experienced. SAH is reluctant to go to

school and meet his friends again.

Although one year ago the incident of bullying had been going on for a long time. When SAH was in the 1st grade of elementary school, he was pushed to the ground because he refused to give money to the same perpetrator. "I have often been asked for money. "It's been in grade 1 but we're just telling the story now," said SAH's father.

Seeing the case that occurred at elementary school in Gresik, there was a connection with Law no. 35 of 2014 concerning child protection[9]. In this law, Article 54 reads: Children in and around educational units are obliged to receive protection from acts of physical, and psychological violence, sexual crimes, and other crimes committed by educators, education staff, fellow students, and/or other parties. Everything that happens in the school environment is the school's responsibility. Even students must receive protection from bullying.

Therefore, what happened at elementary school shows that SAH received absolutely no protection. Moreover, bullying has been going on since SAH was in the 1st grade of elementary school. This case needs to be paid attention to so that it does not set a bad precedent for child protection in Gresik. So that bullying cases no longer occur in schools.

Meanwhile, the Head of the Gresik Regency Government Education Service is quite concerned about what happened to SAH. His party wants the case at an elementary school in Gresik to be thoroughly investigated so that it does not become illegal information. The principal must be responsible because this happened in the school environment.

In addition, the Secretary of the Gresik Regency Government Education Department said that school principals could be subject to violations of the public service law. This is because SAH's father's report regarding the bullying his daughter experienced was not responded to. In fact, complaints from the student's parents were made more difficult. "We were also not informed about this incident. "This complaint was not followed up," he said.

According to him, the complaint from the student's guardian constitutes maladministration. However, the Regency Government Education Service (hereinafter referred to as Dispendik) handed over the legal process entirely to the Gresik Police. If it is proven that there is maladministration, it can be imprisoned for six months. "But we are waiting for the Gresik Police," he concluded.

DISCUSSION

The most common type of bullying we get is physical, followed by verbal, psychological, and emotional. According to Olweus, the most common form of bullying in schools is teasing, followed by beatings, threats, and spreading gossip. Like this case report, the bullying incidents experienced by SAH started from harsh words, and insults, to physical bullying, namely poking the victim's eyes causing blindness[10]. Not only physical disorders, victims also experience psychological disorders. One of the visible symptoms of post-traumatic syndrome is anxiety in the victim. Anxiety can be seen from changes in body physiology, including restlessness, sleeplessness, hypersensitivity to sound, normal vital signs, and pupils[11]. This anxiety results in the risk of developmental disorders in the future.

This case report and Fekkes et al. research have similarities, namely that they see a tendency for boys to bully boys and girls, while girls bully other girls[12]. Most perpetrators bully children their own age, only 30% of victims admit that the perpetrators of bullying are older, and approximately 10% of victims admit that the perpetrators are younger. The perpetrators of bullying in our study were mostly peers. The report is similar to studies conducted in the

Netherlands and Japan but differs from Olweus' research in Norway, where the perpetrators were generally older[13].

Bullying at school most often occurs on the playing field. These findings are different from this case report which stated that bullying occurred in the hallways and research in Japan which found classrooms to be the most common location for bullying to occur. Most interactions between students occur on the playing field, classroom and in quiet places, so bullying is most often experienced by victims in these locations. Bullying can happen anywhere, especially in locations with minimal adult supervision. In our research, bullying incidents were caused by a lack of teacher supervision, due to the high teacher-to-student ratio. The school is also fully responsible for this incident.

Victims of bullying report the incidents they experience to other people, but most victims tell it to friends and family members (parents, siblings), not to teachers or other school staff. Glew et al found lower reporting figures. Similar to this case report, the victim preferred to tell the story to family members at home. Fekkes et al.'s research also shows that more victims of bullying report it to their parents than school teachers[12]. We emphasize the importance of teacher and parent communication to detect bullying in children. Students' reluctance to report bullying they experience to teachers may be due to students' lack of trust in teachers. The results of this research show that effective communication between students, teachers, parents and all parties at school is very important for children's safety while at school, so that preventing cases of bullying at school are handled appropriately[14].

CONCLUSION

Bullying has a negative impact on both the perpetrator and the victim. The biggest impact is experienced by victims of bullying. In this case, the victim of bullying not only experienced psychosomatic and psychosocial disorders, but the victim also experienced blindness. In cases of bullying, the law must be applied fairly to the victim.

Strategies for handling bullying require a holistic approach involving teachers, parents, students, social workers, and doctors/nurses. Health workers have an important role in bullying problems, including: identifying at-risk patients, advising families, and supporting the implementation of anti-bullying programs in schools. Another role is to screen for mental problems and make referrals if necessary.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest in this work and publication of this paper.

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