

# Causes and Forms of Exploitation of Street Children During the Covid-19 Pandemic In Makassar City

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## ABSTRACT

The research was conducted to determine the causes and forms of exploitation of street children during the COVID-19 pandemic in the city of Makassar. This research is a quantitative research, analytical descriptive. The population is street children in the city of Makassar with a sample of 135 respondents. Methods of data collection is done by using a questionnaire. Furthermore, editing, coding, entry, cleaning, and tabulating data are carried out. Then the data is processed using a computer. The results of the study indicate that the factors that are indicated to trigger are economic conditions, loss of parents, family harmony, lifestyle of the surrounding environment, and economic motivation. The type of work that is mostly done by street children is being a beggar and selling tissue, each of which is 72.6%. Based on the percentage, it can also be described that more than 60% of respondents have multiple jobs. This condition indicates that street children who are respondents experience high work exploitation because they do two or more jobs. The conclusion that causes the exploitation of street children that deserve attention is related to economic conditions, loss of parents, family harmony, lifestyle of the surrounding environment, and economic motivation. It is necessary to map the potential of street children and be integrated through social rehabilitation programs so that the potential of street children can be channeled and contribute to improving welfare.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

There are still many cases of violence against children, especially street children in Indonesia. Based on data from the Ministry of Social Affairs in 2016, there were 33,400 street children spread throughout Indonesia and were vulnerable to dealing with various social problems such as violence against children, sexual violence and child pornography. As is known, street children refer to the behavior or lives of children who spend a lot of time earning a living or living on the streets and other public places.

This figure is, of course, a big problem for our country and the government concerned. Because the real impact on the child will appear like a domino effect for the child's life. In their physical, psychological, social and spiritual development and maturation, they will tend to experiment to find out who they are. In the process, the child will look for things that are comfortable for them to do, this will have a negative impact on the child because they do not get support from a conducive environment and tend to be at risk for the child's life.

The problem of street children in developing countries is still a difficult thing to solve and even control because it is still a fairly classic problem. United Nation in a decade ago reported that there are

approximately 150 million street children in the world and will continue to grow every year. Likewise, the threats that are likely to be received by street children, especially in Indonesia.

Indonesia as a developing country, is still very difficult to control the number of children who go down the street. The life of street children is a social problem that exists in society. Family economic factors and the physical environment are the biggest reasons for children to take to the streets. This is supported by the research of Nihayah and Martinus (2016), who found that the motives of children taking to the streets were due to the motives of their own parents who deliberately ordered them to work on the streets due to economic problems.[1]

Economic conditions or it can be said that poor conditions sometimes make people justify any means to earn money, including bringing their children to work. Many parents think that by including their children to work on the street, they will be able to meet their daily needs. However, this assumption cannot be justified.

The majority of street children based on the author's initial observations work as buskers, food sellers or currently mostly turn into tissue sellers, beggars and scavengers. Such work is a form of exploitation of children by adults, in this case the majority of their parents, regardless of gender, whether the child is a boy or a girl.

The case of street children in Makassar City obtained from the Makassar City Social Service can still be considered not well controlled because it does not experience a significant decline every year. Based on data obtained from the results of patrols carried out by the Makassar City Social Service for the last four years, namely from 2018 to 2021, it can be said that the number of street children is increasing every year.

In 2018 the number of street children in Makassar City who were included in the raid was 233 children, while in 2019 it fell to 191 children. However, in 2020 there was an increase with the number of 268 street children not obtained for twelve months but only for eleven months. While the decline in 2021, which was 189 children, was only obtained for six months, namely April, May, June, September, October and November which only reached the 13th. Meanwhile, in January, February, March, July and August, no PMKS patrol data were found. Street children.

This increase data is in line with the findings of Sakman (2016) who looked at the implementation of the Makassar City Regulation Number 2 of 2008 concerning the development of street children, homeless people, beggars, and buskers in Makassar City. In the findings of the implementation of the regional regulation, Sakman found that the regional regulation has not clearly and in detail regulates how to fulfill the basic rights of children as mandated in the 1945 law and law number 23 of 2003 on child protection. Other findings are also that the relevant agencies lack coordination and togetherness of agencies towards the implementation of the regional regulation. Likewise, the presence of Makassar City government facilities and infrastructure does not yet have complete facilities and the lack of funds budgeted by the government for the development of street children.[2]

Of course we cannot ignore this. Street children who work as buskers and beggars are very vulnerable in terms of mental health and understanding of religion which will later affect their behavior in daily life and also have an impact on their future.

Research on the impact of exploitation of street children is useful to get answers to what are the motives of parents to exploit their children because in this case the parents are considered to be the party responsible for the exploitation. As Yuniarti (2012) finds that the exploitation of street children as beggars and buskers is carried out by their own families because they come from poor families and have low education.[3] Therefore the author tries to see how the causes and forms of exploitation of street children in Makassar City.

## 2. METHOD

This research is a quantitative research, descriptive. The population is street children in the city of Makassar with a sample of 135 respondents. Methods of data collection is done by using a

questionnaire. Furthermore, editing, coding, entry, cleaning, and tabulating data are carried out. Then the data is processed using a computer.

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on The research that has been carried out aims to mengetahui penyebab dan bentuk tindakan eksploitasi anak jalanan di Kota Makassar, the authors can describe the results of the research in the exposure below:

#### Characteristics of respondents

The results showed that the distribution of the frequency of street children in Makassar City can be described as follows

**Table 1. Frequency Distribution of Respondent**

Age	F	%
7 – 9	1	0,7
10 – 12	42	31,1
13 – 15	71	52,6
16 – 17	21	15,6
Total	135	100,0
Gender	F	%
Man	63	46.7
Woman	72	53.3
Total	135	100
Job	F	%
Clown	11	8.1
Laborer	1	0.7
Sales	38	28.1
busker	62	45.9
Beggar	7	5.2
Sweep Salan	1	0.7
Scavenger	1	0.7
Student	1	0.7
Not fixed	13	9.6
Total	135	100

Source: Primary data, 2022

Based on table 1, it is found that the age range of the research respondents is between 7-18 years which is then divided into four age intervals. The majority age group is in the age group of 13-15 years, which is more than half of the respondents (52.6%) and the least group is between 7-9 years (0.7%). Respondents in the productive age category (> 15 years) were 15.6% but at that age they were expected to be in school to study.

Street children who become respondents are dominated by street children with female sex, as many as 72 people or 53.3%. Respondents were male as many as 46.7% of the respondents or 63 street children.

From 135 research respondents identified 9 main daily activity characters of street children. Activities as buskers are the activities that are mostly carried out by street children (45.9%) then there are also selling activities (28.1%) and being a clown (8.1%). Other activities include being laborers, street sweepers, scavengers, students, and not working or not being permanent.

#### Causes of exploitation of street children

The number of question items used to measure the variable Causes of Exploitation of Street Children is 18 questions. The results of the assessment of the exploitation of street children can be seen in the following table.

**Table 2. Frequency Distribution of Respondents Based on Exploitation For Infertile Children in Makassar City in 2022**

Exploitation	n	%
Tall	100	74,1
Low	35	25,9
Total	135	100,0

Source: Primary data, 2022

The calculation results in Table 5.8 show that 74.1% of research respondents belong to the group who feel the cause of exploitation is strong and the remaining 35 people or 25.9% feel that the cause of exploitation is less strong. The results obtained describe the level of exploitation experienced by the respondents and it is reasonable to suspect that the exploitation of street children in Makassar has reached a high level of exploitation. Various causes of exploitation of street children that deserve attention are related to economic conditions, loss of parents, family harmony, lifestyle of the surrounding environment, and economic motivation.

The variables causing the exploitation of street children are represented through 18 question items which are measured using a Likert scale. Respondents' responses to the questions posed on the variables causing the exploitation of street children can be seen in the following table:

**Table 3. Distribution of Exploitation Causes Based on Statements On Street Children in Makassar City in 2022**

Statement	Strongly Disagree		Don't agree		Doubtful		Agree		Strongly agree	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	F	%
Physical abuse	18	13,3	89	65,9	16	11,9	7	5,2	5	3,7
Mental violence	12	8,9	47	34,8	55	40,7	18	13,3	3	2,2
Poor family	9	6,7	22	16,3	25	18,5	52	38,5	27	20,0
Parents divorced/died	12	8,9	33	24,4	19	14,1	29	21,5	42	31,1
Family is not harmonious	5	3,7	32	23,7	29	21,5	49	36,3	20	14,8
Forced to work	10	7,4	25	18,5	33	24,4	44	32,6	23	17,0
Asked to wander	13	9,6	45	33,3	28	20,7	29	21,5	20	14,8
Want to help parents	7	5,2	19	14,1	31	23,0	57	42,2	21	15,6
Raised by someone else	9	6,7	35	26,9	28	20,7	38	28,1	25	18,5
Follow neighbors	7	5,2	20	14,8	32	23,7	52	38,5	24	17,8
Follow friends	5	3,7	26	19,3	28	20,7	48	35,6	28	20,7
Have no place to live	13	9,6	41	30,4	29	21,5	32	23,7	20	14,8
Run away from home	8	5,9	39	28,9	31	23,0	32	23,7	25	18,5
The longer on the road, the more money	11	8,1	18	13,3	30	22,2	33	24,4	43	31,9
Working on the road while playing	6	4,4	36	26,7	27	20,0	43	31,9	23	17,0

Statement	Strongly Disagree		Don't agree		Doubtful		Agree		Strongly agree	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	F	%
Perception from childhood must be trained on the job	11	8,1	20	14,8	34	25,2	36	26,7	34	25,2
Freedom to live on the streets	13	9,6	34	25,2	31	23,0	33	24,4	24	17,8
Not going to school because looking for money on the street	6	4,4	23	17,0	27	20,0	46	34,1	33	24,4

Source: Primary data, 2022

Respondents' responses regarding the factors causing the exploitation of street children are quite varied, but there is a tendency for each question asked. Some of the statements that received dominant negative responses were related to physical violence, mental violence, directions to migrate, being cared for by others, a place to live, running away from home, and freedom to live on the streets. The factors mentioned above indicate that the activities of the majority of respondents as street children are not triggered by these factors. Factors that are indicated to trigger are such as economic conditions, loss of parents, family harmony, lifestyle of the surrounding environment, and economic motivation.

Exploitation of children can be caused by various factors or the circumstances in which the child is located. In general, the presence of street children can come from external or internal motivations depending on environmental conditions, including family, friends, school, or relatives.[4-7]

The level of exploitation experienced by street children who are respondents in the study is in the less exploited (1.5%) and highly exploited (98.5%). Exploitation, especially for children who do not have the ability to think, can be done in various approaches so that the child does not feel that he is being exploited.

The results of data collection indicate that several factors that can trigger respondents to become street children are related to economic conditions, family conditions, and the lifestyle of the surrounding environment. Economic motives such as having no place to live, wanting to help their parents, and the perspective that the longer they are on the road, the more money they have become the main economic motives of street children. Family conditions include disharmony, parenting by others, and direction from parents to work causing a child to be on the streets and work. The lifestyle factors of the surrounding environment include the activities of neighbors and friends as street children, the desire to eat snacks, and the freedom to live on the streets encouraging the exploitation of street children.

The factors causing the exploitation of street children that have been mentioned describe the complexity of the condition of a street child. These factors are interrelated with each other where if sorted by percentage then the economic condition is the main factor then family harmony and lifestyle of the surrounding environment.

Not meeting the basic needs of a child economically and the need for harmonious family interaction causes them to tend to involve themselves in the surrounding environment. The surrounding environment then becomes the dominant factor that shapes the cognitive, affective, and psychomotor aspects of street children.[8-10] The limited choice of actions that can be taken due to economic and family conditions causes children to follow the surrounding environment and become child laborers or street children with the attraction of income and freedom to live on the streets.

### Exploitation Form

The type of work that is mostly done by street children is being a beggar and selling tissue, each of which is 72.6%. Based on the percentage, it can also be described that more than 60% of respondents have multiple jobs. This condition indicates that street children who are respondents experience high work exploitation because they do two or more jobs.

*Causes and Forms of Exploitation of Street Children During the Covid-19 Pandemic In Makassar City; Amina Seknun1, Yusriani2, Nurmiati Muchlis*

Street children who were respondents responded to the treatment during their activities. As many as 75.6% of the 135 respondents stated that they were forced to work while the other 24.4% felt they were not forced to work. Regarding supervision, street children who stated that they were supervised at work were 82.2% and 17.8% felt they were not supervised. Responses from respondents indicated that street children were exploited in terms of coercion and supervision at work.

The income of street children who are research respondents from working all day is paid to their parents or bosses who direct them (78.5%). The majority of street children's work results are not used for themselves (89.6%). The flow and use of street children's income shows that the results of their work are not used to improve their own welfare, most of which are paid. This percentage of income indicates that street children are being exploited.

Exploitation of street children occurs in various forms, allowing a street child to have more than one job as described in the previous chart. The tabulation results can be seen in the following table.

**Table 4. Distribution of Exploitation Forms Based on Statements  
 On Street Children in Makassar City in 2022**

Statements	Yes		No	
	n	%	n	%
Work as a busker	92	68,1	43	31,9
Working as a beggar	98	72,6	37	27,4
Selling tissue	98	72,6	37	27,4
Selling drinks	92	68,1	43	31,9
Street vendor	88	65,2	47	34,8
Become a cleaning service	89	65,9	46	34,1
Selling newspapers	91	67,4	44	32,6
Become a scavenger	91	67,4	44	32,6
Forced to work on the streets	102	75,6	33	24,4
Supervised at work	111	82,2	24	17,8
The results that I can Submit to my parents/boss	106	78,5	29	21,5
The results I got for myself	14	10,4	121	89,6
Feeling happy to be a street child	4	3,0	131	97

Source: Primary data, 2022

The accumulation of respondents' responses is illustrated in the last question related to feelings of various forms of exploitation received. The results obtained showed that 97.0% of respondents felt dissatisfied with being street children and only 3.0% were happy. The dominance of feelings of displeasure shows that the street children who are respondents have the desire or hope to become a different person compared to being street children.

A street child can run several professions at once in one day to earn as much income as possible or according to the given target. The profession that is carried out often changes depending on the situation on the streets or in crowded locations.

The jobs that are mostly done by street children are beggars and selling products (tissue). More than 65% of respondents have more than one job which causes street children to be on the streets for a long time. The double work carried out by street children indicates exploitation which can lead to a decrease in the quality of physical and mental health.

As described in the previous section, the existence of street children is not entirely incidental, but has been organized by both parents and street children group leaders. The results of filling out *The Effectiveness of Using Aloe Vera Facial Soap and Aloe Gel on the Degree of Acne Vulgaris in Students of SMA Negeri 2 Bayang Putri Bunga Anggreko Setiawan, Ade Teti Vani, Budi Yulhasfi Febrianto, Vina Tri Septiana*

questionnaires by street children prove that their presence on the streets has been organized where they are forced and supervised to work. The majority of income from work is also paid to parents or group leaders and only a few say that income is for themselves.

For children who are not yet able to think critically, becoming street children is not an option but forcible involvement which is marked by parental treatment and income distribution patterns (paid in). Street children only carry out instructions to make money on the street, but 97.0% of street children who are respondents stated that they feel dissatisfied with the various forms of exploitation they receive.

Feelings of displeasure expressed by respondents through responses to questions on the questionnaire can be interpreted positively. The feeling of being unhappy with being a street child is a strategic entry point for efforts to reduce street children. The feeling of displeasure causes the street children to be more open to various alternative choices of activities that can please them [11-16].

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The factors causing the exploitation of street children during the Covid-19 pandemic in Makassar City which were concluded by the researchers were economic conditions, family harmony, and lifestyle in the environment around street children. Street children during the Covid-19 pandemic in Makassar City experienced exploitation in an organized manner (directed, supervised, income paid) by parents with the most accepted forms of exploitation being beggars, tissue and drink sellers, and buskers. The availability of the results of the identification of factors that cause the exploitation of street children, namely economic conditions, family harmony, and lifestyle of the surrounding environment, therefore the related parties should intervene. The availability of information regarding the forms of exploitation experienced by street children, namely beggars, sellers, and buskers can be used for related parties to map the potential of street children and be integrated through social rehabilitation programs so that the potential of street children can be channeled and contribute to improving welfare.

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