

# The Relationship of Parents' Emotional Intelligence with *Child Abuse Events* in Children Aged 6-12 Years During the Pandemic of Covid-19

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## Abstract

**Background:** The incidence of *child abuse* begins with parents who cannot control their emotions in educating their children. The ability of parents to manage their emotions effectively is the main thing that parents need to have. The way that can be done to increase the emotional intelligence of parents is by socializing more and respecting others. Based on the results of the field survey, 60% of mothers who commit violence. **Methods:** This research method is correlation with *cross sectional design*. The total population in the study is the same as the total sample of 70 respondents who were found using the *total sampling technique*. Data collection is done directly using a questionnaire. The results of this study found the average emotional intelligence was 133.29 with a standard deviation of 5.949 and an estimated interval of 131.94-134.63, while the average incidence of *child abuse* was 29.84 with a standard deviation of 9.743 and an estimated interval of 27.46-31.99. Based on the results of the *Pearson Product Moment test*, the *p-value* = 0.022 ( $\alpha < 0.05$ ), meaning that there is a relationship between parental emotional intelligence and the incidence of *child abuse*. Based on the results of the close relationship, the value of  $r = -0.274$ , means that the lower the emotional intelligence of parents, the higher the incidence of *child abuse*. **Conclusion:** It is expected that parents can control their emotions by deep breathing relaxation, make visits for parents who have just had children to do *self-assessment*, and provide good parenting education in educating children.

**Key words:** Parents' Emotional Intelligence, *Child Abuse Incidence*, Children aged 6-12 years

## 1. Introduction

*Child abuse* is a form of treatment that causes suffering to children physically, verbally, emotionally or sexually so that it can endanger health, survival and affect the growth and development of children [1, 2].

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the incidence of *child abuse* continues to increase. Globally, the prevalence of *child abuse* is around 3 out of 4 children (300 million children) [3]. In 2020, data collected from the Online Information System for the Protection of Women and Children (SIMFONI PPA), there were 5,697 cases in Indonesia, with 6,315 fatalities [4]. West Java ranks fourth (679) after South Sulawesi (1286), East Java (1113), Central Java (1079), and finally North Sumatra (434) cases [3]. Meanwhile, data collected by the Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAI) in June 2020 involving 25,146 children in Indonesia, it was found that children often experience physical violence from their parents, such as being pinched (39.8%), being grabbed (19.5%), hit (10.6%) and pulled (7.7%). In addition, psychological violence is also often accepted by children, such as being scolded (56%), yelled at (23%) and glared at (13%) [4].

The cause of *child abuse* begins with parents who are not able to accompany children in learning at home, this is due to the lack of knowledge and understanding of mothers in learning

methods [4]. Apart from that, parenting, the social environment, namely the low economy and deviant behavior of children are also the causes of *child abuse events* [5].

*Child abuse* can affect a child's health and well-being, physically, sexually, emotionally or verbally. Physical violence can be seen bruises on the part that experienced violence; Sexual violence, children feel less trust in others; while the emotional abuse of children shows extreme behavior, and often complains of headaches for no apparent reason; [6] Verbal violence can cause trauma where children will remember hurtful words, lack confidence and withdraw from the environment [7].

To reduce the incidence *child abuse* in children, parents need to have emotional intelligence. Emotional intelligence is the ability to use emotions effectively in managing oneself and positively influencing relationships with others [8].

Most parents are not able to manage their emotions when accompanying children, this is influenced by parenting. Where the parenting style that is often used is authoritarian parenting. Authoritarian parenting shows harsh attitudes and behavior, uncontrolled emotions, impatience in educating, caring for and accompanying children. Therefore, parents in accompanying, supervising, and supporting children must have emotional intelligence [9].

The results of a field survey involving 10 mothers with children aged 6-12 years, it was found that 60% of mothers often

abused their children when their children did not want to learn, were difficult to manage, had difficulty accepting learning and could not complete the tasks given by the teacher, 50% of mothers use physical violence such as pinching, hitting their children's bodies using their hands and combs and 50% of mothers using verbal violence such as scolding and demeaning their children such as "stupid you!", 75% of mothers complain of economic problems, lack of mastery of learning materials and technology.

Based on all the explanations above, the researcher is interested in conducting research with the reason to find out "The relationship between parents' emotional intelligence" with the incidence of *child* in children aged 6-12 years during the pandemic in Medan Labuhan in 2022".

## 2. Methods

This type of research is non-experimental, namely correlation research with a *cross sectional approach*. This research was conducted in Sei Mati Village, Medan Labuhan Subdistrict, which was held from January to May 2022. The population in this study were mothers who had children aged 6-12 years, with a sampling technique that was a *total sampling* of 70 people. Analysis of the data used in this study is *Pearson's product moment*.

## 3. Results

**Table 1: Frequency distribution of parents with children aged 6-12 years based on demographic data in Medan Labuhan in 2022 (n = 70)**

Characteristics	n	%
<b>Age</b>		
<35 years old	21	30
36 – 45 years	36	51.4
>46 years old	13	18.6
Total	70	100
<b>Gender</b>		
Man	0	0
Woman	70	100
Total	70	100
<b>Education</b>		
SD	9	12.9
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL	12	17.1
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	34	48.6
College	15	21.4
Total	70	100
<b>Work</b>		
IRT	59	84.3
civil servant	1	1.4
Self-employed	2	2.9
Teacher	3	4.3
Businessman	2	2.9
Private sector employee	1	1.4
Midwife	1	1.4
Nurse	1	1.4
Total	70	100
<b>Child Age</b>		
6 years - 8 years	22	31.4
9 years - 12 years	48	68.6
Total	70	100

Based on the results of table 1 the results of research conducted on parents who have children aged 6-12 years in Medan Labuhan, showed that the majority of 70 respondents aged 36 - 45 years were 36 respondents (51.4%), aged <35 years were 21 respondents. (30%) and age >46 years as many as 13 respondents (18.6). Based on gender, it shows that the majority of respondents are

female as many as 70 respondents (100%).

Based on education, it shows that the majority of respondents have high school education as many as 34 respondents (48.6%), college education as many as 15 respondents (21.4%), junior high school education as many as 12 respondents (17.1%) and elementary education as many as 9 respondents. (12.9%).

Based on occupation, it shows that the majority of respondents have IRT jobs as many as 59 respondents (84.3%), teachers as many as 3 respondents (4.3%), entrepreneurs as many as 2 respondents (2.9%), entrepreneurs as many as 2 respondents (2.9%), as many as 1 respondent for civil servants (1.4%), private employees as many as 1 respondent (1.4%), midwives as many as 1 respondent (1.4%) and nurses as many as 1 respondent (1.4%). Based on the age of the child, it shows that the majority of the respondents are aged 9-12 years as many as 48 respondents (68.6%) and children aged 6-8 years as many as 22 respondents (31.4%).

**Table 2: Distribution of Frequency and Percentage of Respondents Based on Parents' Emotional Intelligence in Medan Labuhan in 2022 (n = 70)**

Variable	N	mean	SD	Min-Max	95% CI
Emotional Intelligence	70	133.29	5,949	116-148	131.94-134.63

Based on table 2. shows that the average emotional intelligence of parents in Medan Labuhan in 2022 is at a score of 133.29 with a standard deviation of 5.949. The lowest score of parental emotional intelligence is 116 and the highest is 148. Based on the results of the *confidence interval estimation* (CI 95%) it is believed that the score of 133.29 on the emotional intelligence of parents is in the range of 131.94-134.63.

**Table 3 Distribution of Frequency and Percentage of Respondents Based on Child Abuse Incidence in Children aged 6-12 years in Medan Labuhan in 2022 (n = 70)**

Variable	N	mean	SD	Min-Max	95% CI
Child Abuse	70	29.84	9,743	11-47	27.46-31.99

Based on table 5.3. shows that the average incidence of *child abuse* in children aged 6-12 years in Medan Labuhan in 2022 is 29.84 with a standard deviation of 9.743. The lowest score of parental emotional intelligence is 11 and the highest is 47. Based on the results of the *confidence interval estimation* (CI 95%) it is believed that the score of 29.84 on parental emotional intelligence is in the range of 27.46-31.99.

**Table 4. Results of Correlation Analysis of the Relationship of Parents' Emotional Intelligence with Child Abuse Incidence in Children aged 6-12 years in Medan Labuhan in 2022 (n = 70)**

Correlations		Parents Emotional Intelligence	Child Abuse
Parents Emotional	Pearson Correlation	1	-.274 *

Intelligence	Sig. (2-tailed)		.022
	N	70	70
Child Abuse	Pearson Correlation	-.274 *	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.022	
	N	70	70

\*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Pearson product moment statistical test,  $p$  value = 0.022, meaning that there is a relationship between parental emotional intelligence and the incidence of *child abuse*. Based on the results of the closeness of the relationship, the value - 0.274 is negative, meaning that the lower the emotional intelligence of parents, the higher the incidence of *child abuse* in children aged 6-12 years.

## 4. Discussion

### Parents Emotional Intelligence

Based on the results of the statement of parental emotional intelligence, it was found that on average the respondents had difficulty understanding a problem from the perspective of others and found it difficult to defend themselves, difficult to control other people's emotions, easy to change their minds, and difficult to control other people's feelings. It can be concluded that parental emotional intelligence is the ability to regulate moods to be able to understand oneself and others, regulate and control emotions, and be able to adapt to various demands and changes in life.

The emotional intelligence of parents can be seen from the ability to recognize the emotions of oneself/others and manage emotions of oneself /others, as well as being able to motivate oneself [10]. Emotional intelligence is the ability to control and regulate emotions appropriately in solving problems that arise both for themselves, others and work [11].

To control a person's negative emotions can be done by: first, diverting attention or distractions such as: watching television, taking vacations, keeping busy, reading, exercising, etc.; second, blocking/restraining emotional stress; Third, removing emotional stress from the self system such as: crying when sad, angry, shouting, venting or anything to release pressure to feel relieved [12].

### Child abuse

Based on the results of *child abuse statements*, it was found that on average respondents called children by nicknames, compared children with other people, twisted their ears, pinched children, threatened, hit children, and ordered children to leave the house. So it can be concluded that the high rate of *child abuse* by parents against children is because most parents think that *child abuse* is a natural thing and part of disciplining children. So that parents often do violence both physically, verbally, emotionally to children.

The forms of violence that are often accepted by children are social violence, psychological violence, physical violence, and sexual violence [13]. *Child abuse* is often done by parents due to lack of understanding and awareness. Parents assume that *child abuse* is a form of attention and affection for children, but they do not realize the impact of their actions, where they think *child*

*abuse* will not have any impact on children [14].

To reduce the incidence of *child abuse* in children, parents can provide *positive reinforcement*. *Reinforcement Positive* is a positive response made by parents for positive behavior achieved by children, such as: giving praise, smiles, gifts, and high fives [15].

### The relationship between parental emotional intelligence and the incidence of child abuse

Based on the results of research on 70 respondents using the *Pearson Product Moment correlation test*,  $p$  value = 0.022, meaning that there is a relationship between parental emotional intelligence and the incidence of *child abuse*. Based on the results of the closeness of the relationship, the value - 0.274 is negative, meaning that the lower the emotional intelligence of parents, the higher the incidence of *child abuse* in children aged 6-12 years.

The results of research by Malida et al. (2021) show that there is a relationship between emotional intelligence and the incidence of *child abuse* ( $p = 0.004$ ) and the correlation coefficient is -0.321, meaning that the lower the emotional intelligence of parents, the higher the incidence of *child abuse will be*.

This is influenced by the level of education and occupation of parents. Where the lower the level of parental education, the more difficult it is for parents to understand and know good parenting patterns for children, so that they do not realize they have committed violence against children [17]. Likewise, if the mother does not work, it will increase the mother's stress level, because the mother only relies on her husband's income. If there is a problem that makes the mother depressed, the mother will become more sensitive and the child will become a place of emotional outlet especially when the child makes a mistake or does something he doesn't like [17].

Parental awareness about the bad effects of *child abuse* is also still low. This is influenced by several factors such as lack of knowledge about *child abuse*, the existence of a tradition of violence and parents also feel that violence is the only solution to raising and educating children [5].

Parents who educate children by providing physical, verbal, emotional and sexual violence will have an impact on the future of the child. The negative impact that will be received by the child is the decline in the child's mental and physical health. In addition, the growth and development of children will be different from children in general. Therefore, parents as educators should understand the basic nature of their children. Children must be motivated to always do good deeds and prevent or prevent children from bad deeds [5].

Parents also need to improve their emotional intelligence. Ways that can be done to increase the emotional intelligence of parents are by socializing more, respecting others, asking the opinion of trusted people to understand themselves better. If the emotional intelligence of parents is not increased, it will cause parents difficulty in minimizing the causes of *child abuse*.

## 5. Conclusion

Based on the results of the study with a total of 70 respondents regarding the Correlation of Parents' Emotional Intelligence with *Child Abuse Incidence* in Children aged 6-12 years in Medan Labuhan in 2022, it was obtained as follows:

1. The mean score of Parents' Emotional Intelligence in Medan Labuhan is 133.29 with a standard deviation of 5.949 and an estimated interval of 131.94-134.63.
2. The mean score for the incidence of *child abuse* in children aged 6-12 years in Medan Labuhan is 29.84 with a standard deviation of 9.743 and an estimated interval of 27.46-31.99.
3. Based on the results of statistical tests, it was found that there was a significant relationship between Parents' Emotional Intelligence and *Child Abuse Incidence*, where the value ( $p = 0.022$ ) was smaller than  $\alpha = 5\%$ .

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