# Factors Determining Stress of Street Children in Gresik Regency During the Covid-19 Pandemic

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| ***Keywords*** |  | ***Abstract***  |
| *Covid-19* *pandemic; factors* *determining* *stress; street* *children;*   |  | *Street* *children* *phenomenon* *in* *Indonesia* *is* *a* *complex* *problem* *in* *terms* *of* *physical,* *psychological,* *and* *social* *aspects.* *The* *results* *of* *the* *preliminary* *study* *showed* *that* *Gresik* *Regency* *was* *one* *of* *the* *regencies* *in* *East* *Java* *that* *experienced* *an* *increase* *in* *the* *number* *of* *street* *children* *during* *the* *Covid-19* *pandemic.* *Street* *children* *have* *different* *backgrounds* *and* *have* *experienced* *various* *pressures* *and* *threats* *as* *stressors* *that* *make* *them* *stressed.* *This* *study* *aims* *to* *analyze* *stressors* *or* *factors* *that* *determinating* *stress* *in* *street* *children* *in* *Gresik* *Regency* *during* *the* *Covid-19* *pandemic.* *Methods* *:* *This* *research* *method* *is* *qualitative* *with* *a* *phenomenological* *approach.* *Determination* *of* *informants* *using* *snowball* *technique.* *Data* *were* *collected* *using* *in-depth* *interviews,* *observation,* *and* *documentation.* *Data* *analysis* *used* *interactive* *analysis* *and* *credibility* *was* *verified* *using* *triangulation* *of* *sources* *and* *techniques.* *Result* *:* *Stressors* *for* *street* *children* *in* *Gresik* *Regency* *during* *the* *Covid-19* *pandemic* *are* *rarely* *talking* *to* *parents,* *exploitation* *by* *parents,* *bullying* *at* *school,* *the* *implementation* *of* *the* *PSBB* *policy,* *the* *increasing* *number* *of* *street* *children,* *policing* *by* *Satpol-PP* *officers,* *extortion* *of* *money* *by* *thugs* *or* *more* *mature* *buskers,* *and* *busking* *results* *that* *do* *not* *reach* *the* *target.* ***Conclusion*** ***:*** *Factors* *determining* *the* *stress* *of* *street* *children* *in* *Gresik* *Regency* *during* *the* *Covid-19* *pandemic* *are* *the* *family* *environment,* *social* *environment,* *and* *threats* *they* *get* *on* *the* *streets.* |
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| ***Kata Kunci*** |  | ***Abstrak***  |
| *Anak Jalanan; Faktor Penentu Stress; Pandemi Covid-19* |  | *Fenomena anak jalanan di Indonesia menjadi permasalahan kompleks yang melibatkan aspek fisik, psikologis, dan sosial. Hasil studi awal menunjukkan bahwa Kabupaten Gresik, di Jawa Timur, mengalami peningkatan jumlah anak jalanan selama pandemi Covid-19. Anak jalanan berasal dari latar belakang yang beragam dan telah mengalami berbagai tekanan serta ancaman, yang menjadi pemicu stres bagi mereka. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis faktor-faktor yang memicu stres pada anak jalanan di Kabupaten Gresik selama pandemi Covid-19. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah kualitatif dengan pendekatanfenomenologis. Penentuan informan dilakukan menggunakan teknik snowball* *, sedangkan pengumpulan data dilakukan melalui wawancara mendalam, observasi, dan dokumentasi. Analisis data menggunakan pendekatan analisis interaktif, dengan keandalan diverifikasi melalui triangulasi sumber dan teknik. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa pemicu stres bagi anak jalanan di Kabupaten Gresik selama pandemi Covid-19 meliputi minimnya interaksi dengan orang tua, eksploitasi oleh orang tua, intimidasi di sekolah, penerapan kebijakan PSBB, peningkatan jumlah anak jalanan, pengawasan oleh petugas Satpol-PP, pemerasan uang oleh preman atau pengamen yang lebih dewasa, serta hasil pengamen yang tidak mencapai target. Kesimpulan dari penelitian ini adalah bahwa faktor-faktor yang menentukan stres bagi anak jalanan di Kabupaten Gresik selama pandemi Covid-19 meliputi lingkungan keluarga, lingkungan sosial, dan ancaman yang mereka alami di jalanan.* |
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**Pendahuluan**

Street children phenomenon in Indonesia is a complex problem in terms of physical, psychological, and social aspects. The problem has worsened during the Covid-19 pandemic with social distancing, physical distancing, and staying at home (KEMENKES RI, 2022). Because of this, street children experience a decrease in income and even no income at all during the Covid-19 pandemic (Mardiyah & Nunung, 2020). Economic factors are one of the impacts that affect the psychological burden of street children. Economic difficulties and lack of parental attention are the causes of street children's conditions, especially their mental health, getting worse during the Covid-19 pandemic (Qinthora, 2020). Children will receive a warning from their parents if they refuse to work, which can make children feel depressed (KPAI, 2021).

Based on data and facts at the research site, there has been an increase in the number of street children in Gresik Regency, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Head of the Social Service of Gresik Regency said that the Covid-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the entire community including the increased number of street children. Gresik Regency is one of the regencies in East Java with a high number of street children growth in 2015-2018, which was 112 people (BPS Jatim, 2019).

Furthermore, street children have different backgrounds that can't be generalized. Child abuse cases are one of the backgrounds that are often found in street children (Handayani, 2019). Street children are accustomed to working in extreme temperatures, without adequate protection, and in contact with many people who are at risk of contracting the Covid-19 virus. In addition, they get various threats on the streets so that street children's work endangers their health and safety. The various pressures experienced by street children become stressors that make them stressed.

Researchers analyzed stressors in street children using the ABC theory of behavior change (Antecedent-Behavior- Consequence) by Graeff, et al (1996) which explains the relationship between environmental events and behavior. The pressure experienced by street children during the Covid-19 pandemic is in the form of planned antecedents, which is an environmental event that triggers individual behavior that results from interactions and communication with others. These planned antecedents include family environmental factors, social environmental factors, and threats on the streets that have an impact on street children's stress.

Stress in children and adolescents can affect cognitive abilities, behavior, and health throughout their lives. Street children who work and receive poor treatment can trigger stressors that have an impact on the occurrence of daily behavioral disorders (Nihayah & Legowo, 2016). Based on this fact, this study aims to analyze the stressors or factors determining stress in street children in Gresik Regency during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Perlu diawali secara singkat latar belakang umum kajian (usahakan maksimum satu paragraf). *State of the art* (kajian review literatur atau penelitian sebelumnya secara singkat) dengan tujuan untuk menjustifikasi pernyataan novelty atau signifikansi atau orisinalitas dari artikel ini. Usahakan harus ada rujukan ke artikel dari jurnal 10 tahun terakhir yang memperkuat justifikasi orisinalitas tersebut. *Gap analysis* atau pernyataan kesenjangan (orisinalitas) atau kontribusi kebaruan (*novelty statement*) atau beda unik penelitian ini dibanding penelitian-penelitian sebelumnya, juga dari sisi penting tidaknya penelitian tersebut dilakukan. Permasalahan dan/atau hipotesis (jika ada) dan/atau tujuan penelitian dalam artikel ini.

**Methods**

This research method is qualitative research with a phenomenological approach. The place of research is on the streets and public places at crowded points in Gresik Regency which have been recommended by key informants. The informants in this study were the Head of the Rehabilitation Division of the Gresik Regency Social Service as the key informant, 5 teenage street children as the main informants according to the inclusion criteria, and 5 additional informants who were the closest people to the main informants.

Researchers used the snowball technique in determining the main informant. This is carried out by determining one informant then asking him for the next informant according to the inclusion criteria that the researcher has set and so on until saturated data is obtained. The process of getting the main informant is illustrated in the following chart:

IU 3

IU 1

IU 2

IU 5

IU 4

**Figure** **1.** Process of obtaining informants

The inclusion criteria that have been set by researchers on the main informants are:

1. Teenage street children aged 16-18 years.
2. Street children category is children on the street.
3. Been on the streets for at least the last 1 year.
4. Reside in the Gresik Regency area
5. The subject can communicate well using Indonesian or local language.
6. Willing to be a research informant

 Primary data was obtained from preliminary studies and data collection through open in-depth interviews with research informants using interview guides, passive or non-participatory observation, and documentation. Secondary data in the form of data on the number of street children in East Java Province and Gresik Regency and other references relevant to the research topic. Data were analyzed using interactive analysis according to Miles and Huberman in (Sugiyono, 2019) in the form of data collection, data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. The research credibility test used triangulation of sources and techniques. This research has obtained an ethical eligibility certificate Number 263/KEPK/FKM- UNEJ/IX.2022 in accordance with the seven WHO standards in 2011.

**Result and Discussion**

1. **Family environment factors**

Based on the results of the study, all informants still have parents and live with their family members with details of most informants (IU 2, IU 3, IU 4, IU 5) living with their parents. Meanwhile, IU 1 lives with her older sister because IU 1's parents are in another sub-district which is quite far away. This is an in-depth interview described by IU 1:

*"With* *mom* *and* *dad,* *we* *haven't* *seen* *each* *other* *for* *a* *long* *time,* *it's* *been* *more* *than* *two* *years* *because* *of* *the* *Covid-19* *pandemic,* *before* *the* *Covid-19* *pandemic* *they* *were* *still* *here* *every* *two* *weeks.* *Because* *my* *parents* *sell* *in* *Bungah* *Sub-district* *...* *My* *sister* *and* *I* *still* *meet* *every* *day* *because* *we* *live* *in* *the* *same* *house..."* (IU 1, September 14, 2022).

In addition, all informants rarely talk to their parents, they are more comfortable talking to other family members such as younger siblings, grandmothers and busking friends. This is a statement presented by one of the informants:

*"...I* *rarely* *talk* *to* *my* *mother,* *more* *often* *with* *my* *busking* *friends"* (IU 4, September 26, 2022).

However, although the informants rarely communicated with their parents, most of the informants' parents (IU 1, IU 3, IU 4) asked how the informants were doing while on the streets, such as whether they had eaten and the informants' busking position. This is a statement presented by one of the informants:

*"...My* *father* *comes* *home* *at* *night,* *but* *when* *he's* *on* *the* *road,* *he* *asks* *how* *I'm* *doing,* *sometimes* *he* *calls..."* (IU 3, September 20, 2022).

The results also showed that most informants (IU 2, IU 4, and IU 5) had indications of exploitation by their parents because they gave them a target amount of money to earn from busking every day. This is a statement presented by one of the informants :

*"sometimes* *I* *am* *targeted* *although* *not* *every* *day* *but* *often,* *usually* *Rp* *50,000* *because* *I* *busk* *with* *my* *younger* *sister..."* (IU 2, September 15, 2022).

While one informant (IU 1) revealed that her mother often contacted him to ask for money. This is a statement presented by IU 1 :

*"...usually* *when* *mom* *calls* *sometimes* *I* *give* *her* *money"* (IU 1, September 14, 2022).

For female informants, they are not only given targets by their parents, but they have other obligations that they must do, as described by IU 2 and IU 4 from in-depth interviews:

*"...then* *told* *by* *mom* *to* *wash* *dishes,* *clean* *the* *house..."* (IU 2, September 15, 2022).

*"...told* *to* *help* *mom* *busking,* *then* *take* *care* *of* *younger* *cousins..."* (IU 5, October 4, 2022).

Even though informants have a good relationship with their parents and family members, there are things that make them uncomfortable and feel pressured, such as rarely talking to their parents and some informants are given targets for busking results. Besides that, informants decided to busk because they helped their parents to cover their needs. This study is in line with the results of research by (Tumangger & Susilawati, 2020) which states that the fulfillment of unmet life needs requires children to help parents in finding income. The results of this study are also in accordance with research by (Zami & Rosa, 2021) which states that the involvement of street children in working is influenced by poverty factors so that no matter how small the income earned by children can help the survival of the family.

1. **Social environment factors**

The results showed that all informants were more comfortable making friends with fellow busking friends than school friends. This is because there are groups so that they are closed and know each other. This relationship makes them help each other, tell stories and jokes, and play together. This is an in-depth interview described by one of the informants:

*"With* *the* *busking* *children,* *there* *is* *an* *association,* *usually* *in* *a* *stall,* *but* *the* *groups* *are* *different.* *In* *that* *association,* *we* *know* *each* *other,* *we* *are* *close* *too"* (IU 2, September 15, 2022).

In line with research by (Siregar, 2021) which states that street children have strong solidarity to defend themselves and get recognition. The results of research by (Andriyani, 2019) reveal that peer groups as a social environment for adolescents have an important role in the development of their personality and affect the way they behave towards a problem. In addition, the reason informants are uncomfortable socializing with schoolmates is because of verbal bullying such as insinuations and bad words and physically such as being teased and tackled. This is a statement presented by one of the informants:

*"...Some* *of* *my* *schoolmates* *like* *to* *insinuate* *that* *I* *busk* *and* *sometimes* *don't* *greet* *me,* *so* *I* *don't* *greet* *them* *back..."* (IU 2, September 15, 2022) *"...If* *I* *am* *uncomfortable* *at* *school,* *it* *is* *because* *I* *am* *often* *teased* *but* *I* *tease* *back* *if* *they* *have* *gone* *too* *far,* *when* *I* *am* *not* *doing* *anything,* *I* *have* *been* *tackled..."* (IU 3, September 20, 2022)

In line with research by (Berliana & Wardani, 2018) which states that street children often get bullying actions such as insinuations, bad words, and even ostracism which are included in psychological violence.

1. **Threats on the streets**

Based on the results of the study, street children in Gresik Regency experienced incidents and received treatment that made them feel threatened which became a stressor for them. The threats experienced by street children in Gresik Regency during the Covid-19 pandemic are the implementation of the PSBB, the increasing number of street children, policing by Satpol-PP officers, extortion of money by thugs or more mature buskers, and busking results that do not reach the target.

The implementation of PSBB has an impact on restrictions on various community activities such as school activities becoming an online system, office workers becoming a work from home system, and limiting the time of activities outside the home for the entire community so that many stores are closed, the frequency of traders decreases, and the number of motorists on the road decreases. This has been a threat to all informants because it has significantly reduced their income and disrupted their schooling.

The results of this study are in line with research by (Siregar, 2021) which states that the implementation of PSBB reduces the number of road users, resulting in a decrease in the amount of income of each street child. In addition, due to the decreasing economic conditions of the community, the money given to street children is not as much as before the Covid-19 pandemic. The decrease in income for street children makes them stay on the streets longer during the Covid-19 pandemic to earn more money. This is a statement presented by one of the informants:

*"...the* *money* *I* *get* *doesn't* *reach* *the* *target* *because* *the* *shops* *are* *closed,* *not* *many* *people* *are* *selling,* *it's* *quiet,* *so* *I* *stay* *longer* *on* *the* *road* *and* *so* *I* *don't* *get* *very* *little* *money..."* (IU 4, September 26, 2022)

This can also have an impact on their physical health plus they claim to have not received a complete vaccine and some have not even vaccinated. Not only the implementation of PSBB, the increasing number of street children during the Covid-19 pandemic also affected informants' income because their busking areas were increasingly limited. Because of this, they have to look for other places to a considerable distance to be able to earn more money. This is a statement presented by one of the informants:

*"...more* *and* *more* *children* *are* *busking* *until* *now.* *Once* *I* *was* *told* *to* *move* *the* *place* *"you* *can't* *be* *here".* *So* *the* *area* *is* *only* *here* *along* *this* *road,* *if* *I* *change* *places,* *I* *exchange* *with* *my* *friend..."* (IU 3, September 20, 2022).

The existence of this can show that the increasing number of street children decreases the busking area because of the competition between street children with one another, which has an impact on their decreased busking results. The results of this study are in line with research by (Siregar, 2021) which states that the increasing number of street children causes increased competition between street children.

Policing carried out by Satpol-pp officers continues even during the Covid-19 pandemic. The existence of this, all informants feel threatened because they are afraid of being secured and arrested by Satpol-PP officers. The results revealed that all informants would try to avoid officers and save themselves by running, hiding, or returning home if they met them. However, they will return to the streets when it is safe to continue earning money because their income has decreased during the Covid-19 pandemic. This is a statement presented by one of the informants:

*"...usually* *if* *there* *are* *Satpol-PP* *officers,* *I* *run,* *hide* *in* *a* *stall,* *after* *a* *while* *I* *go* *back* *to* *busking* *again..."* (IU 3, September 20, 2022)

In line with research by (Siregar, 2021) which states that officers often patrol during the Covid-19 pandemic which makes street children feel afraid because if they are caught they will be transported to the office. Not only before the Covid-19 pandemic, all informants have also been asked for money by thugs or older buskers during the Covid-19 pandemic. This is a statement presented by one of the informants:

*"I've* *met* *the* *same* *buskers* *but* *adults,* *I* *don't* *know* *where* *they* *came* *from,* *they* *asked* *for* *my* *money"* (IU 2, September 15, 2022).

Money extortion by thugs or older buskers is a threat to informants because it can decrease their busking results and make them feel worried about unwanted things happening. The results of this study are in line with research by (Kurnia, 2018) which states that there is seniority among street children determined by age and length of time on the streets which causes losses and anxiety for street children before adulthood. The results of busking that do not reach the target are not only an impact of the threats mentioned earlier but also become a threat to the informants. The research results showed that three informants (IU 2, IU 4, IU 5) have indications of exploitation by their parents because they have a daily target that must be reached, which is Rp 40,000-Rp 50,000. In addition, two of the three informants (IU 4, IU 5) if they do not meet the target then they are not allowed to play with busking friends. They also have to consider their time the next day in preparation for reaching the target. Parents set targets for their children and give punishments so that they can help their parents in earning for money on the streets. This is a statement presented by one of the informants :

*"...It's* *not* *allowed* *to* *play,* *it's* *better* *to* *earn* *money,* *my* *mother* *told* *me* *that* *I* *can* *earn* *Rp* *40,000* *a* *day..."* (IU 4, September 26, 2022).

The results of this study are in line with previous research which states that parents consider the economic contribution provided by children is important because parents' income would decrease if children stop working (Zami & Rosa, 2021). In line with research by (Berliana & Wardani, 2018) which states that the inability of parents of street children to provide for their needs causes parents to instruct and require children to help them earn money on the streets.

**Conclusions**

Factors causing stress in street children in Gresik Regency during the Covid-19 pandemic are in the form of a family environment such as rarely talking to parents and exploitation; a social environment such as being bullied at school both verbally and physically; and threats that street children get on the streets such as the implementation of the PSBB policy, the increasing number of street children, policing by Satpol-PP officers, extortion of money by thugs or more mature buskers, and busking results that do not reach the target. Suggestions for future researchers are expected to develop research by identifying street children's stressors based on natural antecedents and developing research using other street children categories such as children in the street and/or children of the street, and using different age ranges.

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