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## The Causes of Domestic Violence from the Perspective of Counselors in the Covid-19 Pandemic Phenomenon

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### ABSTRACT

The Covid-19 is one of the most sensation topics that becoming hotter among Malaysians as well as around the world. The Covid-19 Pandemic has harmed the entire society of our country as well as the foreigners around the world. Meanwhile, the issue of domestic violence is one of the most common problems during this pandemic. This study will directly emphasize the issue of domestic violence from the perspective of counselors during this Covid-19 Pandemic phenomenon. The researcher has used quantitative methods to obtain permanent data on the issue of domestic violence that occurred during the Covid-19 Pandemic. The researcher conducted an interview method with 4 registered counselors who serve in the National Population and Family Development Board and the Social Welfare Department. According to the counselor's perspective, the findings of the study show that there are several causes of the issue of domestic violence during the COVID-19 Pandemic. There are also several challenges faced by the counselors in conducting counseling sessions during the Covid-19 pandemic. Besides that, there are several proposals have been considered to enhance the study of the issue of domestic violence from the perspective of counselors in this pandemic phenomenon.

### INTRODUCTION

The problem of domestic violence in our country as well as in the West is increasing. Based on a study conducted by Herrero (2020), in the United Kingdom, where complaints related to domestic violence have increased by 32% while in Paris, the number of cases recorded is the highest accounting for 36% of the complaints. In Malaysia, the problem of domestic violence occurs where a spouse or ex-spouse tries to control and dominate an individual through violence or other means of control such as oppression (Ministry of Women, Family, and Community Development). The issue of domestic violence involving families as a result of the effects of Covid-19. This can be evidenced where from 18 March 2020 to 20 April 2020 a total of 409 cases of domestic violence issues nationwide were recorded. The cumulative number of complaints is 225,000 cases as a result of Covid-19 transmission (Berita Harian Online, 2020).

Shariffah Nuridah Aishah Noor'Ashikin (2010) says that most women are victims of domestic violence. Statistics show a total of 2,328 cases that have been reported for each state in Malaysia, namely women is 96.5 percent compared to women only 3.5 percent (Jabatan Kebajikan Malaysia, 2012). According to the Head of the Women's Aid Organization, Tang Heang Lee said that the complaints of domestic violence problems that have been received are where a wife has been locked up, beaten, and strangled by her husband and also other cases are where there is sexual abuse or rape by her husband (Jabatan Kebajikan Malaysia, 2012).

The issue of domestic violence is on the rise as a result of the effects of Covid-19. This can be proven where from March 18, 2020, to April 20, 2020, a total of 409 issues of domestic violence were recorded throughout Malaysia. Meanwhile, in Malaysia, Perak recorded the highest number of cases, 353 cases were recorded in Perak due to the

issue of domestic violence. Not only that, around Penang, the number of cases of terrorism have been recorded in 33 cases (Buletin Bernama, 2020). Unfortunately, some women who are victims of domestic violence feel their home is not a safe haven let alone most who have lost their homes during the Movement Control Order (PKP) period. This can be evidenced where in April 2020, a 40 - year -old woman from Bangi, Selangor was beaten by her husband who had lost his job as a result of this pandemic (The Star Online, 2020). In this study, researchers examine the issue of domestic violence during the Covid-19 pandemic. The objective of this study is to analyze the causes that led to the occurrence of domestic violence issues as a result of the effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

There are two main types of factors that lead to the occurrence of domestic violence. There are two forms of factors, namely external factors, and internal factors. The external factors mentioned are economic problems, sexual problems, etc. while the internal factors that cause the issue of domestic violence are due to lack of religious knowledge, stress at work, unstable emotions, jealous attitude towards his partner, and also problems in communication.

Schneider (2016) said that the economic recession caused the outbreak of domestic violence in the United States. Most people in the United States experience stress due to the economic downturn and the experiences they have gone through as a result of job loss have had an impact on an individual and even fights have occurred between spouses. According to Fadillah Ismail (2016), economic factors are the highest factors that cause domestic violence, which accounts for 36%. Economic factors indirectly lead to increased burdens and increased roles and commitments, which lead to family conflict.

Rohaiza (2011) says that economic factors are recorded as the highest percentage that contributes to the occurrence of domestic violence problems. This is because the economy is growing rapidly and this is causing an increase in burden. Not only that, according to Luthfi and Ajda Nuha (2020) said that the cause of the outbreak of domestic violence as a result of the effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic is due to the consequences of the economic recession. This can be evidenced were, the Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) has estimated that

100,000 workers have lost their jobs due to the Covid-19 virus outbreak.

Lack of religious knowledge is a leading cause of domestic violence. Nur Fadhilah Yahya (2014) showed that almost half of the data in the study focused on the religious and personality aspects of couples. According to Nurahanisah and Raihanah (2016) said that the lack of religious aspects in an individual can lead to the problem of domestic violence. The thing to consider when dealing with domestic violence is that we should emphasize responsible behavior and attitudes as well as religious understanding.

Oyunbileg et al., (2009), says that this problem of domestic violence occurs due to a lack of education among husbands and wives and also has a very low-income generation. This can be proven where individuals with a high level of education will get a decent salary and will also have a permanent job.

According to Sa'odah Ahmad and Mariani Mansor (2007) in a previous study said that the problem of domestic violence occurs due to communication problems that occur between husband and wife. Ineffective communication between husband and wife will lead to misunderstanding, confusion, and even provocation between the two of them. This can also be proven through a study conducted by Tengku Alina Tengku Ismail (2020) said that the cause of domestic violence issues as a result of the effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic is due to increased conflict when confined and always at home together.

## **METHODS**

The method that has been used in this study is qualitative in the form of a case study. Researchers have used interview questions as the main method. The researcher conducted an interview method with 4 registered counselors around Penang, Kedah, and Perak. Researchers have used unstructured interviews. This study was conducted at the National Population and Family Development Board (LPPKN) located in Kepala Batas, Penang, Penang State Social Welfare Department Center (JKM) located in Seberang Tengah, Kulim District Social Welfare Department, Kedah, and the Population and Development Board Negara (LPPKN) located at the Ipoh Federal Building, Jalan Panglima Bukit Gantang, Perak. Respondents

involved in the study conducted by the researcher are two registered counselors working in the National Population and Family Development

Board (LPPKN) in the state of Penang, and Perak and two registered counselors working in the Social Welfare Department (JKM) Penang and Kedah.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

<p><b>Factors Causing Domestic Violence Issues as a result of the effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic</b></p>	<p><b>Dialog</b></p>
<p>Financial Factors</p>	<p>This matter has been highlighted as follows: “The first cause is due to financial constraints where since the PKP there may be people who have lost their jobs where there may be only one person in the family who works, namely her husband”.</p> <p>“When a couple starts living in the same house, there are financial problems and this is one of the causes”.</p> <p>“Mostly domestic violence occurs due to economic factors where an individual does not work so he will have difficulty in buying necessities and this causes anxiety. Most people were laid off because many factories could not operate normally causing domestic violence especially during the lockdown that day”.</p>
<p>Responsibility Burden Factors</p>	<p>This matter has been highlighted as follows: “The second cause is the burden of responsibility. During PKP husband and wife duk one house for 24 hours. Therefore, the burden of responsibility is felt by men. They also start to feel bored”.</p> <p>“Before PKP, the husband usually went out to work at 7 am and returned at 8 pm, but during PKP, the husband started to be at home for 24 hours. Come out all true color”.</p> <p>“It is a high responsibility where previously the couple would send the children to a foster home. We don't know what kind of child the child is because he always takes care of the evening until night only. When the lockdown from morning to night have to take care of the child. If the husband helps so close there can happen quarrels because the husband is not used to taking care of the children and during the 24-hour PKP has to take care of the children causing fights and quarrels between the husband and wife”.</p>
<p>Factors of Failing to Manage Time Properly</p>	<p>This has been highlighted as follows: “Failure to manage time properly or in a beneficial way. If an individual fails to manage time properly is also one of the reasons for conflict between husband and wife”.</p>
<p>Family Factors</p>	<p>This has been highlighted as follows: “and possibly even individuals raised in families with cases of domestic violence. The child who is in the family who was beaten is used to this kind of thing so for him this is normal”.</p> <p>“Maybe someone lives in a large family. Try to imagine what it would be like when everyone gathered in one house for some time. All true color there”.</p> <p>“Family factors where previously most of the family members went out to work and perhaps quarrels are greatly reduced and if a family is not friendly the possibility of fights between husband and wife will increase”.</p>

Environmental Factors	“The atmosphere or situation where individuals and families cannot leave the accommodation and if he leaves there is only one person, namely the representative from the family to buy necessities. Environmental factors cause a person to feel stressed with situations where they cannot do activities as usual”.
Drug and alcohol intake factors	<p>This matter has been highlighted as follows: “Alcohol and drug consumption are also one of the causes of domestic violence. Maybe even before the PKP it already existed and the time for the PKP to be again”.</p> <p>“There are also cases we received where her husband is a drug addict. Before this I did not know. When he got home he started taking drugs”.</p> <p>“Maybe an individual in an environment where he has a personality disorder or for example an individual taking drugs and so on”.</p>

Based on the results of interviews conducted with four registered counselors, a total of three counselors have said that the main cause of the issue of domestic violence as a result of the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic is financial factors. All three respondents have said that most people have lost their source of income due to the Movement Control Order being introduced. Individuals who have lost their source of income have had difficulty supporting themselves and their families.

Based on a previous study conducted by According to Fadillah Ismail (2016) said that the economic aspect is the highest factor that causes the issue of domestic violence which accounts for 36%. Economic factors indirectly lead to an increase in burdens, roles, and commitments, which leads to the issue of domestic violence. This is further supported by a study conducted by Luthfi and Ajda Nuha (2020) said that the cause of the outbreak of domestic violence as a result of the effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic is the economic recession.

Based on the results of interviews conducted with registered counselors a total of three respondents have said that the burden of responsibility that led to the outbreak of the problem of domestic violence during the Covid-19 Pandemic. This is so because children have previously been sent to foster homes and will not take care of them often but this became the opposite when the Movement of Control Order (PKP) was introduced and husbands and wives had to look after their children 24 hours.

Based on a previous study conducted by Maizatul et al. (2008) said some wives who do not understand the burdens or problems borne by their husbands will cause their husbands to feel angry

and experience stress. This can be proven during the Pandemic Covid-19 study conducted by Tengku Alina Tengku Ismail (2020) said that the cause of domestic violence issues as a result of the effects of Pandemic Covid-19 is due to increased conflict when confined and always at home together.

Based on the results of the interviews, a total of 3 respondents said that the cause of domestic violence as a result of the effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic is due to drug and alcohol consumption. If the husband is a drug addict or likes to drink alcohol. Most individuals who have such habits find it difficult to quit let alone during PKP. They will have a free and easy time to do this useless activity. This can be supported through a previous study conducted by Oyunbileg et.al (2009) said the factors that contribute to the occurrence of domestic violence are due to the husband who is a drug addict or bottle leg. This can be proven where drug abuse accounts for 20% of the outbreak of domestic violence among husbands and wives as a result of the effects of Covid-19 (Bernama Online, 2020).

Based on the results of the interview, one of the respondents said that the environmental causes that caused the issue of domestic violence as a result of the effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic. This is because individuals cannot leave the accommodation and only one representative is allowed to leave home to purchase necessities during this Movement Control Order. Therefore, an individual will feel depressed due to not being able to perform activities as usual. Based on a previous study by Wan Anor & Risalshah (2014) a high level of jealousy can lead to the problem of domestic violence. Excessive jealousy is a factor in the

occurrence of domestic violence that can lead to family divorce among couples.

## CONCLUSION

There are several future research suggestions to be implemented to find out about the problem of domestic violence to reduce it. Among the studies that can be implemented is the study on the Community's Understanding of Domestic Violence Issues as a result of the Impact of the Covid 19 Pandemic. This study can help our society to understand the growing problem of domestic violence to this day. Next, a study on a Comparison of Counselors' Views on Domestic Violence Issues Before and After the Covid-19 Pandemic. In addition, a study on the Challenges Faced by Counselors in Dealing with Domestic Violence during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The limitation of the study is that this study only focuses on counselors' views on the issue of domestic violence as a result of the effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic. In addition, this study does not involve external parties such as predators, the government, NGOs, and the community. From the aspect of the method, this study only involves qualitative methods through interviews of respondents to know the main things in more depth. Next, the findings and discussion of this study revolved around the information or data obtained from the results of interviews with four registered counselors selected as respondents for this study.

The conclusion that can be drawn in this study is that most counselors expressed their perceptions on the issue of domestic violence during the Covid-19 Pandemic phenomenon. Most counselors have expressed similar views on the causes, measures, and effects that led to the issue of domestic violence during the Covid-19 Pandemic. A study on the issue of domestic violence from the perspective of counselors in the Covid-19 Pandemic phenomenon in more detail. The suggestions presented are expected to help future studies. Those responsible must take appropriate measures to address the growing issue of domestic violence, especially during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

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