

A Casework Approach in Helping the Self-Development of Orphanage Children

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ABSTRACT

The casework approach is a social work intervention method that focuses on assisting individuals in overcoming their problems. This research examines the application of casework in helping the self-development of an orphanage child with the initials F. The casework process is carried out through several stages, namely: building relationships and contracts between the caseworker and the child, in-depth study/assessment of the child's problems, intervention through activities to develop personal potential, and termination/termination of contract. In the early stages, it was discovered that child F had problems lacking self-confidence due to having been a victim of bullying in the orphanage environment. Through the assessment, the child's interest in swimming was discovered. Intervention is then carried out by providing motivation and opportunities for children to explore and develop their swimming abilities. As a result, this activity succeeded in growing children's self-confidence and gave rise to the desire to become athletes and swimming coaches. This case study shows that the casework approach is effective in facilitating the self-development of children in orphanages through exploring their interests and talents. The child's active involvement and support from the caseworker is the key to the success of the mentoring process in building self-confidence and actualizing the child's potential.

Keywords: Casework, social worker, personal development

INTRODUCTION

An orphanage is an institution whose task is to care for and shape the development of children who do not have families or do not live with their families. Children in orphanages are cared for by caregivers who replace the role of parents in caring for and guiding the children so that they will become useful and responsible adults for themselves and society. An orphanage is a social institution whose mission is to provide social services to neglected children through support and assistance. The orphanage provides services as a substitute for the child's family/guardian to meet the physical, mental and social needs of foster children so that they have the opportunity for complete personal development and become the next generation of the nation's ideals.

Orphanages help improve children's welfare through education, nurturing, leadership, guidance, instilling love and the necessary skills according to the child's interests and abilities. The orphanage environment is the main social environment in the adjustment of children in the orphanage. Of course, there are quite a few problems faced by foster children from the social environment, both internal and external to the foster children. From small problems to big problems experienced by orphaned children, including problems with social relations, learning activities, other things that cannot possibly affect the child's development and will become obstacles to the activities of orphaned children if they are allowed to continue unabated Yandianto (in the Big Indonesian Dictionary, 1996: 346) explains that "A problem is something that must be resolved, solved and a solution found." This means that it can be understood that an individual who experiences a problem must have a solution implemented.

If the problem faced cannot be resolved, it can cause pressure within oneself, this pressure can be heavy or light depending on the person's assessment of the problems they face. According to Greeno (1978), Gestalt psychologists stated that a problem is a situation where there is a mismatch or mismatch between existing cognitive representations. In addition, proponents of the behaviorist approach argue that problems occur when the responses required to achieve a particular goal are not as strong as other responses, or if a number of responses are required but cannot be displayed in their entirety. (Ayuningtyas, 2021)

In information processing theory, a problem is considered a condition where the information that has been stored in memory is not ready to be used to solve the problem. Gagne believes that problems arise when the means to achieve planned goals cannot be known. Meanwhile, Newell & Simon, who is often quoted by experts, states that a problem is a

situation where someone wants something but does not clearly know the series of actions that can be taken to achieve it. According to Steinberg (1999), we are involved in solving problems when we have to overcome obstacles in answering questions or achieving goals. If we can quickly find the answer from our memory, then we have no problem. However, if we cannot immediately remember the answer, then we have a problem to solve. (Tania Octa Viola et al., 2023)

Children living in orphanages often face major psychological and social challenges. Loss of parental figures, new environments, and traumatic experiences such as violence or neglect can affect their mental condition and self-confidence. In situations like this, an appropriate social work approach is needed to help these children overcome problems and develop their potential. One social work method that can be applied is casework or individual case assistance. This approach involves a therapeutic relationship between the social worker (caseworker) and the client in an effort to overcome problems and achieve positive change goals. Casework pays special attention to the needs, strengths, and resources of individual clients.

It is believed that children's self-development, especially in areas of interest and talent, can be the key to building their self-confidence. With the right support and mentoring from caseworkers, orphanage children can find strength within themselves and actualize this potential to achieve better welfare.

METHOD

This research uses a qualitative case study approach to explore the application of casework in helping the self-development of children in orphanages. The research subject was an orphanage child with the initials F who experienced problems lacking self-confidence due to bullying experiences. Data collection techniques include observations of children's behavior and interactions during the mentoring process, in-depth interviews with children, caseworkers, and orphanage officials, as well as documentation studies related to case notes, progress reports, and employment contracts. Data obtained from observations, interviews and documentation studies were then analyzed qualitatively by codifying, categorizing and interpreting to identify the main themes and results achieved in the casework process..

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Panti Asuhan Putera Muhammadiyah

Child Social Welfare (LKSA) - Children's Social Welfare Home (PSAA) is located in Medan City which has a role in educating and developing foster children who have social problems, including lack of economic ability, lack of one of the heads of the family or both, lack of peace. and the peace that exists in family life so that the family environment cannot provide solutions to problems that make them feel they lack a clear future. Therefore, the Putera Muhammadiyah Orphanage, Medan City Branch, specifically accepts male children, from elementary school age to high school education.

The Putera Muhammadiyah Orphanage, Medan City Branch, was established as a form of charity to help improve the social welfare of orphans, the poor, abandoned children, converts to Islam, and children from troubled families. The Putera Muhammadiyah Orphanage, Medan City Branch, functions as a social institution. It is known that in the implementation of daily life, the children in their care are directed, educated, mentored, nurtured and given love, and their needs are met. Foster children are also given various skills as provisions to earn their own living after leaving care, namely when they have completed their education at high school level. Caregivers try their best to replace the role of their parents with the aim of providing welfare services to orphans, the poor, abandoned children, converts to Islam, and children from troubled families by meeting their physical, mental and social needs. them so that in the future they will be able to live a decent and independent life in the midst of society. The moral development carried out in orphanages is a form of struggle so that foster children have the qualities of faith, knowledge and good deeds, accompanied by good morals.

The Putera Muhammadiyah Orphanage Medan City Branch has a role in carrying out consistent, committed and

continuous moral development for foster children so that they receive guidance related to direction and guidance that is in line with moral development so that foster children in the orphanage can be directed and guided to develop their morals so that their morals become commendable morals that can make them happy and happy for themselves and for others.

The moral development that has been taking place at the Putera Muhammadiyah Orphanage Medan City Branch has been seen in the form of religious activities such as: tahsin of the Koran, hafizh of the Koran, recitations of the Koran, attending recitations held by the Head of the Medan City Muhammadiyah Branch which is held twice a week, namely on Sunday. Wednesday and Friday after Maghrib prayer, congregational prayer, dhikr and prayer, attending invitations from donors at thanksgiving celebrations (aqiqah, new house, graduation, wedding, job acceptance, etc.) and also patience celebrations (ta'ziah for people who are sick or have died, have not been able to find work, misfortunes, etc.), as well as training them physically by holding holy tread training.

These activities are adapted to the orphanage program in carrying out moral development in the orphanage with the aim of making their souls holy, improving their character and attitudes and teaching them to behave well, fairly, speak the truth, be firm, respect their elders, love the young, spread greetings, carry out orders and avoid prohibitions, be active in seeking knowledge, love fellow Muslims, do good to others, guard your tongue and hands, don't be nosy/disturb your friends, compete in goodness, help each other, socialize with others. good, there is a match between rights and responsibilities.

Social Worker Methods

1. Research stage

At this stage the client begins to establish a relationship with the caseworker and at this stage the caseworker also provides an understanding that the therapy process that the client will undergo is largely determined by the client himself, the results that will be achieved while the caseworker helps the client to develop themselves, helps the client to be able to choosing the best problem solver for the client, helps generate motivation to move in a better direction. The client can determine the choice whether he will continue this therapy process or not. If the client is willing, then this is written into the agreement contract. In this phase, the client with the initials F agrees to continue with the next stage of therapy.

2. Level of study

At this stage the caseworker carries out an assessment in the form of an in-depth interview with the client to gather as much information as possible regarding what is actually the client's problem, what is the cause of the problem, how the client handles the problem, how the client feels, the client's background, the client's relationship with the family. as well as the social environment, etc

3. Intervention stage

The intervention treatment provided is adjusted to the assessment results and client needs. From the client assessment process, it was found that the client's problem was that the client lacked self-confidence because in this new environment the client had experienced bullying at the orphanage, the effect of which was that the client was a little closed off. So in this problem the intervention given is motivation to increase the client's self-confidence and motivate the client to be able to focus on developing the potential he has, namely swimming. Based on the assessment, it was also found that the client's hobby was swimming. So, to support and support this potential, the caseworker invites him to go swimming and teaches swimming techniques so that the client can learn more about them. After being observed while swimming, the client had the potential to be able to deepen the swimming technique and yes, he said that he wanted to be an athlete and swimming coach. So it can be said that the program provided was successful in making the client confident in being able to adapt to his environment because he believed in it. that he has great potential.

4. Termination stage

This stage is the stage where the relationship between the caseworker and the client is terminated and the contract is terminated. The caseworker also gives a gift as a reward because the client has successfully completed the therapy process to



completion.

CONCLUSION

The casework approach as a social work intervention method has proven to be effective in helping the self-development of children in orphanages. This research shows that through several stages of building relationships and contracts, in-depth studies, potential development interventions, and contract termination, the orphanage child with the initial F succeeded in overcoming the problem of lack of self-confidence due to bullying. Through the assessment, the child's interest in swimming was discovered, and intervention took the form of motivation and opportunities to explore swimming abilities. As a result, child F experienced increased self-confidence and aspired to become an athlete and swimming coach. Support from caseworkers and active involvement of children are key factors in the success of this mentoring process in building self-confidence and actualizing children's potential.

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