

Fulfilment of Early Childhood Rights in Special Situations: A Study of Public Policy Implementation in Semarang Women's Prison

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ABSTRACT

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Although the number of young children in Indonesia reaches 30.2 million, the fulfilment of their basic rights still faces serious challenges, especially for children living in correctional institutions with their mothers. This study aims to determine the strategies implemented by correctional institutions in fulfilling children's rights, identify the obstacles faced, and evaluate the effectiveness of current policies. This study uses a qualitative approach with a case study design, focusing on the Semarang City Class IIA Women's Correctional Facility. The research subjects consisted of prison staff and mothers of infants who were serving their sentences. There were four participants in total, two prison officers and two female prisoners. The data analysis technique used was thematic coding to explore thematic patterns in the practice of fulfilling children's rights. The results show that there are real efforts in fulfilling the right to life, the right to growth and development, and the right to protection for children in prison. However, implementation in the field is still faced with various obstacles, especially related to limited resources and the impact of government budget efficiency policies. This condition has the potential to hamper the sustainability of essential programmes, especially for pregnant women, nursing mothers, and children who live with them in prison. Based on these findings, this study recommends national standardisation in the fulfilment of children's rights in all correctional institutions in Indonesia, as well as the need for affirmative policies that exclude programmes to fulfil the rights of mothers and children from efficiency policies. Thus, the fulfilment of children's rights in the correctional context is not only a moral responsibility, but also a constitutional obligation of the state to ensure the optimal growth and development of children, wherever they are.

INTRODUCTION

Data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) in 2023 noted that the number of early childhood (0-6 years) in Indonesia reached 30.2 million (Anisah, 2024). However, the reality in society shows that there are still many young children who experience violations of their basic rights. Data released on the website of the Ministry of Women and Child Protection in the SIMFONI PPA.go.id information system shows as many as 795 cases of violence experienced by early childhood in the age range of 0-5 years from 1 January 2025 to May 2025. One of the main causes of this condition is the low awareness of parents of children's rights, economic conditions and the limited level of education of parents (Margareta & Jaya, 2020). A mindset that considers children as personal property often triggers violence or neglect under the pretext of disciplining children.

One of the main areas of study that needs consideration is the lives of young children who live in prisons. Children from vulnerable groups, such as those residing in prisons with their mothers, face particular challenges. Although some prisons provide facilities like lactation rooms and clinics, the availability of medicines is limited, and children often have to sleep with other inmates, as there is no designated sleeping space for them (Raihani, 2024). Furthermore, the psychological condition of the mother, as the child's primary caregiver, also warrants consideration. This is because the conditions in the prison environment significantly impact mothers' mental health, which in turn directly affects parenting

styles and child well-being. Mothers experiencing emotional stress tend to struggle to provide sufficient attention and affection, consequently affecting the emotional closeness between mother and child, as well as the child's sense of security in a prison setting (Helaina et al., 2022; Rosyada et al., 2022). Unfortunately, previous studies have rarely focused on the psychological condition of the mother as the primary caregiver, despite its major influence on the child's growth and development.

Early childhood education should involve the roles of various parties, including families, the government, and society at large (Astawa, 2017; Prasanti & Fitriani, 2018; Santika, 2018; Wahyudin, 2021). The aim of national education to enhance the nation's life can be realised if the basic rights of children are fulfilled from an early age, even from the womb. Early childhood requires loving education and primary protection from parents with the support of a conducive environment (Arianto, 2024). Early childhood, known as the golden age, is a crucial period that will not be repeated (Website Kanal Pengetahuan dan Informasi Fakultas Kedokteran UGM, 2024), so it should be utilised as well as possible by parents by providing appropriate stimulation, a supportive environment, and protection from violence. However, this situation is very challenging if the children grow up in a correctional institution that is full of limitations and rules. Certainly, children who live in correctional institutions with their mothers still have the same rights to grow and develop

optimally. Therefore, special attention is needed to the fulfilment of early childhood rights in this environment. Furthermore, it is important to pay attention to the psychological condition of mothers who are prisoners, as this will affect parenting and child welfare.

Fulfilling children's rights is a shared responsibility, not only of individuals but also of society and the state. If regulations have been established, it is necessary to formulate an implementation strategy so that the expected goals can actually be realised. As with the principles in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (KHA), which has been ratified through Presidential Decree No. 36 of 1990, every child has the right to protection and fulfilment of their basic needs without discrimination, including children living in correctional institutions. In addition, Law No. 35/2014 on Child Protection emphasises that children in special situations - including children who live with their parents in prisons - require special protection and services from the state. In this context, correctional institutions as part of state institutions are responsible for ensuring that children's rights are fulfilled, including the rights to health, education, love, and security. Public policy should be present not only in the form of technical regulations but also in clear operational steps, including concrete strategies that must be pursued as a form of policy implementation. For example, strategies to fulfil children's rights include the provision of child-friendly spaces in prisons, positive parenting training for mothers of prisoners, and the involvement of cross-sectors such as the Social Service, the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, and the Education Office to ensure that children's rights are not neglected.

The urgency of this research lies in its contribution to policy evaluation and real implementation in the field, ensuring that children in correctional facilities do not merely 'stay' but actually live and grow in an atmosphere that upholds their rights. The state, as the highest policymaker, must ensure that the regulations established do not remain on paper but are implemented in the form of public policies that are responsive and in favour of children. Thus, the fulfilment of early childhood rights in prison is not only a moral obligation but also a form of constitutional and political responsibility from the state towards the nation's next generation. This research is vital as a contribution to supporting the fulfilment of the rights of children living in constrained environments, such as correctional institutions. This study aims to explore the efforts of the Women's Correctional Institution Class II A Semarang City in fulfilling the rights of young children who live with their mothers who are prisoners, as well as to find out the psychological conditions of mothers as the main caregivers of children.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research used a qualitative approach with a case study design. The research location was purposively selected at the Women's Correctional Institution Class II A Semarang City, because in this institution there are early childhood children who are cared for by their mothers while undergoing a period of guidance. This location is considered relevant because it provides a real picture of the dynamics of the fulfillment of children's rights in the correctional context.

Data in this study were obtained through primary and secondary sources. Primary data was collected through in-depth interviews with two prison officers and two female prisoners who care for their children in prison, as well as through direct observation. Secondary data included child development documentation, immunization data, official prison social media posts, and relevant previous research.

The subjects of this study are young children who live in prisons with their mothers who are prisoners. Since the

subjects could not be interviewed directly, an understanding of their conditions was obtained through key participants, namely individuals who have a direct relationship with the care and management of children in prison.

Participants were purposively selected based on their role and involvement in the issue under study. There were four participants in total, two prison officers and two female prisoners. The officers consisted of a health worker (prison midwife) and a guidance and public relations officer. Meanwhile, the two female prisoners were mothers of young children who were cared for in the prison during their detention.

Data collection was conducted through three main techniques: (1) semi-structured in-depth interviews to explore participants' experiences and perceptions; (2) participatory observation to understand the daily interactions of mothers and children in a correctional environment; and (3) documentation study of child growth and development data, immunization records, and digital documentation from official prison social media accounts. These techniques were conducted triangulatively to strengthen the validity of the findings.

Data were analyzed using the thematic analysis technique of the Miles and Huberman model, which includes the stages of data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing and verification. Interview data were transcribed verbatim, then coded and grouped into main themes based on the occurrence of recurring patterns of meaning. The analysis was carried out iteratively until a thematic pattern was obtained that was representative of the phenomenon under study.

Data validity was guaranteed through source, technique, and time triangulation techniques. Source triangulation was carried out by comparing information from prison officers and prisoners; technique triangulation through a combination of interviews, observation, and documentation; and time triangulation was carried out by collecting data in several separate sessions to avoid time or context bias.

The research was conducted through several systematic stages. The initial stage included the preparation of instruments, obtaining ethical clearance, and coordinating with the prison. Furthermore, during data collection, researchers conducted interviews and direct observations within the prison environment, following security protocols and institutional limitations. Documentation studies were conducted simultaneously to complement the primary data. After the data was collected, the analysis stage was performed in phases by transcribing the interview results, coding, and formulating analytical themes. The final stage of drawing conclusions involved considering the findings, triangulating, and linkages with relevant literature.

The following is a table of demographic information of primary data sources including prison staff and prisoners who are mothers.

Table 1. Data on prison staff informants

Name	Age	Position	Tenure	Education History
Mu	34 years	Midwife/health staff	2011-Present	D3 Midwifery
Se	30 years	Guidance of prisoners and juveniles	2017-2025	S1 Correctional Science

Table 2. Data on female prisoners who care for children

Mother's name	Age	Child's age (up to February 2025)	Case	In-prison counselling period
ES	34 years	1 years	Scam	9 years
MA	18 years	5 months	Drugs	2, 5 years

Informant 1, Mu, is a prison health staff who has served for approximately 14 years as a midwife. Until now, Mu is in charge of providing health services for children born to prisoners as well as health services to all prisoners in Semarang Women's Prison.

Similarly, Informant 2, Se is a prison staff who bridges external (public relations) matters and has served for 8 years from 2017 to February 2025.

Meanwhile, in table 2, there are Informant 3, E.S and Informant 4, MA. They are prisoners of Semarang Women's Correctional Institution who have been pregnant to care for children in prison. ES is a mother as a prisoner with a 9-year coaching period and has been running for approximately 1.5 years. She is currently caring for her 1-year-old child. Her child with the initials C (female) is the fourth of four children. At that time, C looked healthy and was carried by her mother's friend to play.

Similarly, Informant 4, MA, an 18-year-old teenager who has been a prisoner since she was 3 months pregnant. She had experienced a feeling of shock because of her condition of having to serve a period of detention in the middle of her pregnancy. Because of her mistake, she received a sentence of 2.5 years imprisonment. MA's child appeared to be in good health based on direct observation by the researcher in the prisoner's bedroom.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1.1 Early childhood and prison inmates

Children referred to in the Law on Child Protection Number 35 of 2002 are those who are not yet 18 years old, including babies still in the womb. Meanwhile, early childhood is generally described in the Big Indonesian Dictionary as children aged 0-6 years. This definition aligns with what is stated in the National Education System Law Number 20 of 2003, which specifies that the early childhood category includes children aged 0-6 years. In Presidential Regulation No. 60 of 2013 concerning Holistic Integrative Early Childhood Development, article 1 explains that early childhood refers to a child from the fetus in the womb to the age of 6 years, which is categorized into four groups based on age: (1) fetus in the womb until birth, (2) birth until 28 days of age, (3) age 1 to 24 months, and (4) age 2 to 6 years.

Based on this understanding, it can be interpreted that what is meant by early childhood is a baby who is in the mother's womb until he is born and is six years old. Sablez & Pransiska (2020) state that this age is an age of growth and development so that it requires stimulation to develop maximum physical, cognitive, and socio-emotional potential.

According to Law No. 22 of 2022 Article 1 paragraph 18 what is meant by prisoners are prisoners, foster children, and clients. Furthermore, according to the Regulation of the Minister of Law and Human Rights of the Republic of Indonesia No. 8 of 2024 concerning the Implementation of Security and Order in Correctional Work Units defines the definition of detainee as a suspect or defendant who is placed in a Detention Centre (Rutan). However, some detention centres face conditions of overcapacity or other considerations that require some detainees to be transferred to correctional centres. Meanwhile, prisoners are convicts who are serving imprisonment for a certain period or for life or death row convicts who are awaiting the implementation of the decision, who are undergoing guidance in correctional institutions. This overcapacity condition triggers problems in the prison.

From the above description, it is understood that a female prisoner is a person of the female gender who is serving a sentence of imprisonment in a prison/detention centre with the status of a detainee or prisoner to follow the coaching period for a certain period and or for life. Women in the context of prisons are seen as a group with special needs (vulnerable) because they are likely to experience biological conditions such as menstruation, pregnancy, childbirth, and breast-feeding, even a mother who must take care of her child who is still at an early age. Therefore, regulatively it has been regulated in the Correction Law No. 22 of 2022, Article 62, paragraph 1 states that prisoners are allowed to take care of their children up to the age limit of 3 years by following applicable procedures.

1.2. Efforts to fulfil the rights of young children in women's correctional

The efforts of the Correctional Institution in fulfilling the innate children's rights of prisoners are implemented in various services as in the following table 3;

Table 3. Forms of prison efforts in fulfilling early childhood rights

Category of rights	Type of needs	Form of Services
Right to life	Acces to health service	Services for children: immunization, integrated health posts, health checks Services for mothers: pregnancy check-ups, providing milk for pregnant women, USG, PMTCT, lactation counseling, delivery services at referral hospitals.
	Health facilities	Health infrastructure: polyclinic and lactation room Health workers: integrated health post cadres, dentist (1), midwife (2), nurse (1), general practitioner (uncertain schedule)
	Physiological needs	Provision of complementary feeding, formula milk, baby diapers and hot water for children. Beds are provided (shared with other inmates' rooms)
Right to growth and development	Right to education	Playroom Reading room/library equipped with children's books
	Right to socialize	Online and offline family visit services, freedom for children to socialize with other children and prisoners around them
Right to protection	Need for safety	Child care services
		The mother's psychological condition is stable because it is supported by: policy flexibility for mothers who care for children, supporting facilities, as well as the existence of counseling services, health education and child health services which are pursued in the form of collaboration with internal and external parties.

Based on table 3 above, there are 3 main rights that will be studied in this research. The rights categories are elaborated into several types of needs and forms of service. The rights of

early childhood that will be studied are categorised into 3 categories of rights, namely the right to life, the right to growth and development, and the right to protection. These three

rights are listed in the International Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) which has been ratified in Presidential Decree Number 36 of 1990. The main objective is to protect children from anarchist acts and the government's commitment to fulfil children's rights as part of a country's responsibility (Tahamata, 2015).

Fulfilment of the Right to Life

Basically, children are human beings who have the same right to life even though they have parents who are serving prison terms. Prison efforts in fulfilling the right to life for children of prisoners include easy access to health, health facilities, and supplies of physiological needs for children. This is in line with the international law of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in article 24 that children must get a high standard of health. The efforts in fulfilling access to health provided include health services for children and health services for pregnant and lactating mothers.

Health services provided for children include immunization, posyandu programmes, and health checks. Based on information from an interview with Mu (informant 1), immunization and posyandu services are conducted once a month by collaborating with Puskesmas Poncol, and are conducted separately. Posyandu is carried out by bringing Puskesmas Poncol to the prison. Meanwhile, immunization is carried out once a month outside the prison, namely at the Puskesmas Poncol depending on the child's immunization needs and adjusting to the schedule set by the puskesmas. This is as conveyed by Mu in the following quote

"Every month, once a month. The dates are not fixed, because we adjust to the schedule of the Poncol health centre. So the immunization and posyandu schedules are separated." (informant 1, Mu, Midwife)

This statement was also corroborated by statements from the two prisoners who raise children in prison, ES and MA.

"Posyandu is here, but for immunization the child is taken out, to Puskesmas Poncol" (Informant 3, ES)

"Yes, immunization is always given, once a month" (Informant 4, MA)

Observations were made in the following month to monitor the implementation of posyandu and immunization. During the observation, the implementation of immunization coincided with the implementation of posyandu for toddlers on 25 February 2025.



Figure 1. Immunization for ES's child (source Instagram *lapasperempuansemarang*)

Figure 1 shows the immunization of a 12-month-old baby with PCV 3 vaccine. According to Darmin et al. (2023),

immunization for infants and toddlers is very important to build immunity to avoid diseases that hinder their growth and development. Therefore, Semarang women's prison cooperates with Puskesmas Poncol in an effort to fulfil the right to immunization for children of prisoners living in prison due to limited equipment and medical personnel.



Figure 2. Baby weight measurement activity

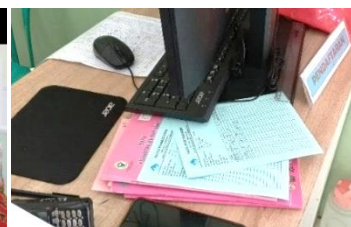


Figure 3. Table 3 recording growth and development progress (KIA book)

The posyandu service programme in Semarang women's prison is carried out based on the 5 steps of the posyandu Open Day implementation, namely the registration stage, the height and weight measurement stage (Figure 2), the recording stage in the KIA book (Figure 3), the health counseling (IEC) stage, and the provision of additional food (PMT) for toddlers. Posyandu activities are accompanied by health workers from the Poncol Health Centre, 2 midwives from within the prison, and posyandu cadres from among the PRISONERS who have received training. Here is a snapshot of the service during the Posyandu Open Day at Semarang Women's Prison.

In addition to services for early childhood living in prisons, there are also health services for pregnant women and nursing mothers. Services include routine gynaecological examinations, including PMTCT and ultrasound services. In addition, there is also lactation counselling, as well as childbirth services. This is as described by informant 1 as follows;

'... there are gynaecological examinations, PMTCT, HIV checks for pregnant women, there was also an ultrasound, but outside'

Ultrasound services are only provided for mothers with conditions that require this service. An example of a case that had occurred was due to a young pregnancy and a previous miscarriage that required an intensive gynaecological examination, as stated by informant 1 below.

"It depends on the condition of the pregnant woman. If eee. What ... there is an indication, for example, the last time she was 18 years old, she was pregnant, she had a miscarriage, so we facilitate an ultrasound, we go for free. later, we will cooperate with the hospital to be referred. Free of charge. So, using a letter from the prison that this is a prisoner. From ultrasound, pregnancy check, lab, SC, zero rupiah. Routine health checks" (Informant 1)

Prisoners have the same rights in terms of access to health services as the community in general. In fact, due to their limited conditions in prison, they should receive special attention from the prison to support their physical and mental health (Subroto & Ruwanda, 2024). Thus, services for pregnant and breastfeeding women should be guaranteed and provided with easy access by Semarang Women's Correctional Facility including supplementary feeding and lactation consultation.

Prisoners who are pregnant will be given extra food for free in the form of special milk for pregnant women. this is as stated by informant 1 below

"Here usually milk, fruit, the most special milk, pregnant women's milk. If it's fruit, all prisoners get it. Officers also get it, so we officers get the food part first in order to prevent unwanted things for the prisoners."

The reason why pregnant women need extra food is so that their nutritional and energy intake can be fulfilled properly (Subroto & Ruwanda, 2024). Referring to the interview excerpt with informant 1 above, it implies the prison's efforts to always be consistent in providing the best service for prisoners by ensuring that the food provided is nutritious and suitable for consumption.

In addition to pregnant women, the prison also pays attention to mothers who are breastfeeding. Semarang Women's Correctional Facility provides lactation counselling and consultation services for mothers who are experiencing problems during the breastfeeding period. This is very important because mothers who are breastfeeding need sufficient information so that their children get nutritional intake from their mother's breast milk exclusively (exclusive breastfeeding) (Subati & Nuryanto, 2015). The role of health workers is needed in this process to provide lactation counselling information to prisoners who are breastfeeding. The following is an excerpt of an explanation from informant 1 regarding lactation services.

"...so if there is a condition, for example, the milk doesn't come out, like yesterday we were taught lactation massage, how to make the milk flow well, how to eat a lot, it's like counselling. Yes, for example, lactation massage is how to make the milk come out a lot, what to eat, and increase the protein, so there is that, it's more like counselling/consultation for the health of mothers and children. And if you are confused about how to clean the navel, we teach you." (informant 1)

Access to health services is also facilitated by the availability of health facilities within the prison. The prison strives for health facilities such as the availability of a Primary Clinic. Currently, the clinic at Semarang Women's Correctional Facility has been awarded a plenary status. In the clinic there is a lactation room equipped with breast milk pumping equipment and strategically located with the duty station of health workers. This is in accordance with the implementation of the policy documented in the decision of the Director General of Corrections of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights of the Republic of Indonesia No PAS-693.PK.01.07.01 of 2015. The availability of lactation room facilities gives mothers flexibility when they want to breastfeed their children because their privacy is well maintained (Setyani, 2021). This room is also useful when mothers want to pump breast milk to give to their children who are outside the prison. The following is informant 1's description of the lactation room.

"Yes, this is next door, currently empty, no one uses it, because the baby is in the room with the mother. In the past, there was a breastfeeding bus that pumped to be taken once a month by her family because her child was cared for at home. It is rarely used, but we provide it. there is glass, there is a table, there is a chair, there is hand washing, there is a refrigerator. There is also a mukena if she wants to use it."

As for the health workers on duty in prison, they consist of posyandu cadres, dentists, midwives, nurses, and general practitioners. Dentists and general practitioners are on duty on weekdays or sometimes conditionally, while midwives and other health workers are always in the prison every day from 07.00-16.00. this shows the criteria for health workers who are

following the needs in the prison. The importance of this suitability is so that the policy can run smoothly (Firmansyah et al., 2019). However, on the other hand, this number is not proportional to the number of prisoners in Semarang women's prison of 275 who are overcapacity.

"... We have one dentist, two midwives and three nurses. But two nurses work in the kitchen. So we only have one nurse. As for the general practitioner, we cooperate with PKBI, but there are also interns on Tuesdays and Thursdays" (Informant 1).

Based on the information above, it can be interpreted that the prison strives for excellent health services by collaborating with external parties so that children of prisoners living in prison can fulfil their right to health services by providing proper health infrastructure and full status. However, prison policy, especially dentists, only focuses on prisoners, not for children living in prison. This is as stated by the following dentist.

'...here we focus on prisoners only, for example if children are rare, if they are 3 years and over they are taken home, sometimes not yet 3 years have been taken home'

In addition to health services, efforts to fulfil rights for early childhood by the prison are budgeted in fulfilling the basic physiological needs of children. Children's physiological needs are provided free of charge, including the fulfilment of clothing, food, and shelter needs, as well as toiletries. Clothing needs in the form of baby nappies, food needs in the form of formula milk, complementary foods, and medicines, shelter needs in the form of beds, and toiletries in the form of hot water provided in a thermos for children. All of these needs are provided by the prison concerning the provisions of Law Number 22 of 2022. This is described by informant 1 below

"For example, baby nappies, baby nappies are from that country, it can't be full. It's logical that we, as humans, just make baby nappies for our children, or just make our own business. Indeed, if it is from the state, but it is not continuous until the child is 3 years old. For example, if you want to send it from your family, you can. So for example, when we come here, we ask, are there any baby nappies left? For example, if there are only ten left, you can order them from the cooperative or send them from your family if we run out. One child needs at most one bale or two bales, because there are three babies (at that time), for example if you patch it up, it is divided by 2 2 2 right. Here the unit is bales."

Based on informant 1's explanation above, it can be interpreted that the provision of baby nappies for children is given until the child is 3 years old but with a note as long as the supplies in the prison are still available. If the prison supplies run out, it is recommended to buy at the cooperative or wait for their families to bring them.

This is confirmed by ES's statement as follows

'Yes, if the child needs it, they get baby nappies, ...'

Another case with food needs. Children's nutritional intake is also pursued by the prison by budgeting for formula milk and complementary food. Formula milk is given from birth until the child is 3 years old as long as the prison supplies last. Meanwhile, complementary food is given from the age of 6 months and is given once a month with an amount sufficient for the child to consume during the feeding period. ES said that she has never been short of complementary food, in fact, it is often more than the next month, but she is still given complementary food rations for the following month. The following statement was made by ES.

'It's given from here once a month... it's definitely called when it's scheduled, it's not lacking, there's even more left over when it's given' (informant 3)

"Yes, if the child needs, baby nappies, if given milk, they are asked, does the child want milk? Milk wants, but most don't mix it with food, (she replied), is the complementary food still available? It's gone, if it's gone, I'll immediately tell them to get it like that, the complementary food." (informant 3)

According to ES's explanation, the complementary foods given were instant foods such as instant porridge, packaged fruit yoghurt, and cereals. Referring to research by (Sunarti et al., 2021), it is important for mothers to provide complementary foods when the child starts to reach the age of 6 months. Because at that time the child needs additional nutrients that are not obtained through breast milk. The following is an excerpt from an interview with ES.

"The complementary food is direct, like promina milna, and then like ... bunda's kitchen oat meal for children who have earansa, given snacks for a month, immediately given a lot for one month. Cereal snacks and biscuits, then like yoghurt, yoghurt in the form of real fruit juice, liquid fruit and that, Milna yoghurt and Yummi, yoghurt made like puffs but yoghurt, when in the mouth it melts immediately." (informant 3)

To fulfil other needs, children are also given a daily supply of hot water in a heat-resistant thermos. The following is ES's statement during the interview.

"Provided from the kitchen every day, special children must get all the hot water. The mandine also uses hot water." (informant 3)

Based on ES's explanation above, it can be interpreted that toiletries are provided consistently throughout the day by the prison in the form of hot water. During the observation to the residential room of the prisoners, there were a total of 5 thermoses of hot water to supply the needs of the 2 children in the room. In this room, there was also a bed for the child next to his mother as well as 9-10 adults and 2 infants. There was also one bathroom, which was partitioned off with thin boards and a cloth curtain. There was one window with an iron trellis and one large door. The facilities in the room were also equipped with 1 television and 2 fans.

Based on this description, the data collected in the field shows that the fulfilment of the right to life for children has been quite well implemented by the prison in accordance with Correctional Law number 22 of 2022 and the Service Standards for Vulnerable and High Risk Groups (Decree of the Director General of Corrections of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights of the Republic of Indonesia in 2015). However, the provision of instant complementary food should also be interspersed with the provision of local complementary food in the form of fruit. Because this effort is one of the efforts to prevent stunting. As a study conducted by (Hafsah et al., 2020) shows that children who are often given instant (commercial) complementary foods at the age of 9-11 months have an impact on short stature in children aged 11-23 months, while children who are given homemade complementary foods in the form of meat, liver, various types of vegetables, and so on, tend to have normal stature at the age of 11-23 months.

In addition, the condition of children sleeping in the same room with other prisoners is quite risky because there is a shared television in the room. With a shared television, children will easily see television shows that are not age-

appropriate, such as romance or violence that they intentionally or unintentionally see. This can interfere with children's cognitive and social-emotional development (Atmoko et al., 2019).

Fulfilment of growth and development rights

Early childhood, in this case toddlers, in addition to needing services to fulfil the right to life, toddlers also need facilities to support their growth and development rights. The right to growth and development for early childhood includes services that support the right to education and the right to socialise. Educational rights include the right to play and learn, as well as the right to have access to books that are appropriate for their age. In addition, children also have the right to receive loving stimulation from people closest to them such as prison staff, health workers, and families as part of their socialisation rights (Seto Mulyadi in Puspitasari & Subagyo (2022)).

Based on observations, Semarang Women's Correctional Facility provides a room that supports children's growth and development in meeting educational needs such as a playroom equipped with children's toys

After obtaining this information, observations were made and found that there is a children's play area with several varied toys, beds, fans, and height measurement stickers as shown in Figures 9 and 10. This room stands at $\pm 4 \times 4$ metres. The room is currently occupied by 2 childcare officers from among the prisoners themselves and there are 2 toddlers from the prison staff who are entrusted there. However, in the author's view, in order to improve the function of the room so that it is more educative for children, this room requires maintenance of infrastructure and spatial arrangements that are more accessible to children so that children are comfortable playing and learning there. This condition is in line with Piaget's theory of cognitive development. According to Piaget, cognitive refers to mental activity in interacting with the surrounding environment so that a thinking process occurs that encourages children to know themselves and their environment. One of them is through toys and interactions between children and between children and adults around them. Maynard and Thomas added that cognitive also includes various thinking processes including perception, language, memory and reasoning so that the results of these mental processes are manifested in children's interactions with the environment so that children know themselves and their environment (Talango & Sultan, 2020).

In addition to the children's playroom, children's reading materials are also provided in the form of books for children in the library room. The following is the information from Informant 2.

'Yes, there are books in the library, prayer books for children, there are all books in the library.' (informant 3)

However, the condition of the library still cannot be known directly because it is constrained by prison regulations where the location of the library is in a sterile area (cannot be accessed by outsiders).

In addition to infrastructure, education for early childhood also requires a social environment that supports growth and development. As Bronfenbrenner's theory of ecological theory states, children's development is influenced by the social relationships between themselves and those around them (Evans, 2024). In relation to this, observations were made to see how interactions are formed in the environment around the child. The observations showed that the mothers, the inmates and the prison staff were very concerned about the young

children living there. This can be seen in the positive interactions between the children, their mothers, other prisoners and prison staff. At that time, it was seen that the prison staff and other prisoners were interacting by holding and verbally communicating with the young children there with a funny behaviour that reflected intimacy.

In addition to needing social relationships with the prison environment, early childhood children also need to connect with their fathers or families who are far from where they live, namely in prison. The living conditions in prison are limited by the prohibition of carrying communication devices, which can hinder a child's relationship with his family, especially with his father, who is outside the prison, which is very necessary, one of which supports mothers in providing breast milk for their children (Riany et al., 2015). However, the child's need to socialise with extended family outside the prison is not completely limited, because it has been facilitated by the visitation service.

The visiting service is open with two systems, namely direct visits and visits via online provided by the prison. Visiting services are open from Monday to Thursday. Direct visit services are given a time duration of 15 minutes. While online visits (video calls) are given 7 minutes. All of these services can be accessed free of charge. This is based on the narrative of informant 2, staff of the Correctional Guidance of Prisoners and Correctional Children as quoted during the following interview.

"visits on Monday and Wednesday for prisoners, Tuesday and Thursday for detainees. Each meeting is 15 minutes (direct visit) if online 7 minutes, via video call" (informant 2).

Whereas online visits must go through the applicable procedure, namely the party who wants to visit must register through the prison staff to be forwarded to the prisoners concerned. In the author's opinion, online visits and direct visits provide opportunities for children to interact with their families so that they can also get to know their environment more broadly, which is not only limited to the prison environment. Through this interaction, children can get to know themselves and their environment. This is important because when the child reaches the age of separation from his/her mother, which is when he/she reaches the age of 3, he/she must be cared for outside the prison, in other words, returned to his/her extended family. So with this family visit, the child can understand who are the people he must recognise who will take care of him later when away from his mother.

Fulfilment of Protection Rights

Protection rights are rights that should be received by children so that they feel safe and protected from violence and discrimination from the social environment and policies that affect them (Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989). The right to protection for young children in Lapas Perempuan Semarang is reflected in early childhood-friendly regulations.

The Women's Correctional Institution Class II A Semarang City enforces child protection policies in accordance with Correctional Law Number 22 of 2022, focusing on the rights of young children residing in correctional facilities with their mothers. To ensure childcare, facilities are provided to support children while their mothers participate in coaching sessions from 07:30 to 16:00, comprising morning roll call, workshops, breaks, and worship. Informant 1 explains the daily routine starting at 04:00 with waking up, praying, and cleaning, followed by breakfast at 07:30, and coaching activities such as

sewing, bakery, sports, and handicrafts until 16:00. These activities, including rest periods, are compulsory for all inmates, aiming to monitor attendance and provide a structured routine within the correctional institution.

This activity is mandatory for all prisoners without exception. However, the policy implemented is flexible, where mothers who care for children are not required to follow the full coaching schedule. They are allowed to take care of their children during the activities, leave their children with fellow prisoners, or with prison staff. This is as stated by informant 1 as follows

'We specialise in that, we are not obliged to participate or can participate while taking care of the child, but most usually participate but don't move much, mba, focus on the child.'

This statement is also supported by the information conveyed by informant 4, MA, a prisoner with a 4-month-old child when the interview was conducted.

'....work is compulsory, but you can bring your child.'
(informant 4)

Under certain conditions, they are also allowed not to follow the full coaching schedule. For example, MA, who cares for a 4-month-old child, has to be with her child at all times because she cannot bear to leave her behind as she is too young to be entrusted to someone else. In this scenario, a mother, ES, entrusts her child to a colleague or prison officer while she attends coaching sessions, indicating trust in the child's care. The safety and well-being of children in the prison environment are maintained by a strong anti-violence culture. This is evident in the positive interactions observed between prisoners and young children, with behaviour resembling that towards their own kin. The presence of maternal figures among the prison staff contributes to a nurturing atmosphere.

The environment promotes a sense of security and protection crucial for children's growth, aligning with Maslow's theory of basic needs, emphasising the need for safety and security in individual development. The positive dynamics within the prison setting indicate a lower risk of violence towards children, supported by legal awareness and inherent maternal instincts. In the context of early childhood, they need strong legal guarantees to get protection from danger, physical safety, emotional stability and environmental stability. When environmental stability is manifested in love and warmth towards children in the form of the presence of parents (mothers), it will grow a sense of security in the child's soul that supports their growth and development (Rahmi et al., 2022).

The psychological well-being of mothers in correctional institutions heavily influences the protection and care provided to their young children, impacting the child's emotional development. Mothers undergoing incarceration often face loneliness, loss of freedom, and monotonous prison life, leading to stress that can affect their ability to care for their child, especially during pregnancy (Helaina et al., 2022; Margareta & Jaya, 2020; Rosyada et al., 2022; Ulandari, 2019). Research indicates that emotional distress can trigger parenting stress, affecting a mother's capacity to give optimal attention and affection to her child. A case study of MA revealed that her incarceration during pregnancy led to shock and stress, resulting in decreased appetite and abnormal foetal development. This underscores the importance of considering the psychological state of mothers in correctional facilities in ensuring the well-being of both mother and child.

Ulandari's research in 2019 highlighted how various factors influence the mental well-being of prisoners, including loss of control, loss of family and friends, and lack of stimulation due to restricted activities in detention centres. The study involved interviews with ES and MA, revealing insights into parenting in prison. ES, a 34-year-old mother, found it challenging to provide for her child's needs as she faced financial difficulties while incarcerated. Despite raising three children previously and exclusively breastfeeding her baby for 11 months, ES expressed sadness over the limited resources available to support her child's growth and development. The study sheds light on the emotional struggles and practical challenges faced by incarcerated parents in ensuring the well-being of their children in prison. On the other hand, ES also felt that the support from her family, both material and moral, was enough to cure her loneliness, even though her husband no longer cared about her and her child since he went to prison.

MA (18 years old) felt different. This is her first experience of parenting, especially in prison conditions. At first when she was pregnant, MA did feel mental pressure that affected the condition of her foetus. Mental conditions during pregnancy can cause disturbances in the condition of the fetus (Dunkel Schetter & Tanner, 2012). However, since then, the prison has shown curative efforts in providing care for her, such as pregnancy checks, providing pregnant milk, and lactation counselling when she starts breastfeeding.

From the description above, the psychological conditions of ES and MA in Semarang City Class II A Women's Correctional Facility can be analysed under the main psychological aspects. Both mothers in Semarang City Class II A Women's Prison demonstrated good memory capacity in the cognitive aspect, with differences in perception influenced by intelligence and experience. They both experienced strong emotional feelings like guilt, worry, despair, and stress in the affective aspect, yet managed stress well to provide good care for their children, reducing the risk of violence towards them. Psychomotorily, they restrained themselves when dealing with fellow prisoners. Their psychological stability is maintained due to supportive factors like flexible policies for pregnant or breastfeeding prisoners, ensuring regulations are not coercive. For mothers caring for children, they are exempt from mandatory coaching activities, allowing them to focus on their children while still following prison rules by being outside during coaching hours.

In addition, prison staff build positive relationships with all prisoners in Semarang women's prison. This is especially true for mothers who care for their children there. This was felt by MA when she found that her child's growth and development was on the red line of the child growth and development record in the KIA book. The prison's response was to immediately encourage MA to pay more attention to eating food so that her breastmilk intake is plentiful so that her growth improves and is normal. This is as the following quote.

"Yes, I was scolded when I didn't gain weight yesterday. That's what I care about, to make me try to make me enthusiastic about breastfeeding. If I didn't say anything, I would have been careless." (informant 4)

The same thing was also felt by ES. When she takes part in formula milk for her child, the condition of her child's development is always asked by the prison, as a form of attention. The following is a statement from ES. This condition is in accordance with Sarafino in (Maharani & Fitri, 2024) that social support is manifested in the presence of various individuals by showing concern, appreciation and assistance

for someone so that the person is able to feel valuable to his social environment.

The availability of health facilities, information and communication facilities in prison has a positive impact on the psychological condition of prisoners, especially for mothers. Based on the results of observations and interviews, information was obtained that in each room there is one television, bathroom, shelves and cabinets, and mattresses. In addition, family visit schedules and wartel facilities provide opportunities for prisoners to establish healthier social relationships. It is also supported by green open space in the form of ornamental plants arranged in rows in the front yard of the prison residence, large shady trees, and small flowers lined up in the prison which gives a calm sensation. This is as research by (Mashar, 2021) which states that green open spaces can reduce stress or depression.

Prison strategies and barriers faced in fulfilling early childhood rights

Physical and mental health rights for mothers are well pursued. In order to fulfil the rights of children and mothers who care for their children, the Semarang City Class II A Women's Correctional Facility collaborates with the Poncol Community Health Centre. In addition, the prison also seeks to address the psychological conditions of prisoners, including pregnant women and mothers who care for children. This is done through counselling services provided in collaboration with Dompot Dhuafa. For breastfeeding mothers, lactation counselling services are provided by prison health staff.

However, what hampers the effectiveness of this effort is the uncertain timing of psychological counselling because it adjusts to related stakeholders. Counselling is needed especially when Semarang Women's Prison is overcapacity. This condition can trigger mental disorders in prisoners including mothers who are caring for children there (Maulana Fahreza & Muhammad, 2023). Therefore, it is necessary to have a permanent psychologist/psychiatrist on duty in the prison so that it can fulfil the mental health needs of prisoners.

Another obstacle is the efficiency policy that is currently designed to be implemented. While the government's budget efficiency policy aims to improve the effectiveness of state spending and respond to national fiscal challenges, its implementation needs to consider vulnerable groups, including children living in correctional institutions with their mothers. In this context, budget efficiency should not be translated as a reduction in basic services that directly impact children's rights. Instead, policies should be able to distinguish between expenditures that can be reduced and programs that touch on the fulfillment of fundamental rights such as health, education, and child protection. Therefore, an affirmative policy mechanism is needed to ensure that programs related to the fulfillment of children's rights and pregnant/breastfeeding mothers in prison are not affected by budget cuts. This approach reflects the principle of social justice in public policy and answers the constitutional mandate that every child, wherever they are, has the right to grow and develop optimally. As a result, the budget for the fulfilment of early childhood rights in prisons is in priority.

CONCLUSION

The fulfillment of early childhood rights in Class II A Semarang Women's Correctional Facility shows that with the right commitment and collaboration, children can still have a decent life despite being in a correctional environment. To

ensure the sustainability and equitable quality of this service nationally, it is imperative to standardize early childhood-friendly policies in all prisons, which include mother-child bedroom separation, play and learning facilities, health services, and psychosocial support for mothers.

Furthermore, child protection should be a top priority, demonstrated through policies that are not affected by budget efficiency. Children should be placed as the main subject of state protection, including those who live with their mothers in prison. Therefore, there needs to be an exception to the budget efficiency policy for programs that are directly related to the fulfillment of the basic rights of children and pregnant or breastfeeding mothers in prisons.

Cross-sector collaboration with local governments, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector is key in supporting the creation of prisons that are inclusive and responsive to the needs of children. With this step, the state shows its support for the future of generations, wherever they grow up..

For future research, research can be conducted related to the psychosocial development of early childhood living in prison with their mothers who are undergoing a period of guidance and the impact of budget efficiency on the fulfilment of their rights while living in prison.

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