



## **Survival Strategy of Street Children Who Do Not Occupy in Halfway House against Violence in the City of Surabaya through the Assistance of ALIT Foundation**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Children are the young generation who are the hope and future of the nation. Every child needs protection and guidance in the process of growth and development both physically, mentally and socially. Especially for street children who do not live in a halfway house in the face of violence in the city of Surabaya. Community involvement in the protection of street children is also an important part in improving the quality of the nation's next generation. One of the community's involvements in child protection is realized through Non-Governmental Organizations. This study aims to determine the role of the ALIT Foundation in providing assistance to street children who do not live in a halfway house. This study uses a qualitative approach located along the Ketintang Surabaya railway. The results showed that the survival strategy of street children who did not occupy in halfway house against violence in the city of Surabaya was through the assistance of the ALIT Foundation and in accordance with Grindle's theory, there were two main variables that became indicators of the success of policy implementation, namely the policy content variable and the implementation environment.

**Keywords:** Survival strategy, Street children, Violence, Mentoring, ALIT Foundation

## INTRODUCTION

Changes in development in the economic sector as well as science and technology in Indonesia resulted in very rapid progress. However, it is undeniable that development has an adverse impact on society, including the emergence of social disparities, both at the national and regional levels. This social disparity often raises social problems, including street children, in 2019 there were around 12,000 street children. Being a street child is not an option that everyone wants, especially for security issues. Street children are often considered a problem, and there are no regulations that can overcome this phenomenon (Astri, Herlina, 2014:145).

So far, society is still constructing street children as a social problem that is difficult to find a solution for. Setyowati, RRN et al (2018:2) conducted the type of attention of child presence on the street. The problems of the street girl then led to the effort to survive. Street children are labeled as community trash, which often causes public unrest. Public unrest begins to emerge when street children deviate, such as stealing, robbing, brawling, and drinking liquor. This condition further strengthens the connotative image of street children in the eyes of the public. Many street children do not have good parenting from their families. Parenting patterns are very important in the process of child development, because the success of forming a child's character is influenced by one of the parents. Therefore, the parenting style according to Baumrind as quoted by Muallifah is "Parental Control" which is how parents control, guide, and accompany their children to carry out developmental tasks towards the maturation process. Weak economic status can indirectly have an impact on the mental condition of parents. Family poverty stresses parents out, making it more difficult for them to be considerate, warm, and caring for their children. Therefore, in families living in poverty, parents tend not to help their children in developing social skills (Gershoff, et al., in Komro, et al., 2011:122).

Based on the Integrated Social Welfare Data, it was recorded that until 2020 there were 183,104 children with details of 6,572 children in need of special needs, 8,320 street children, 8,507 children under five, 92,861 children requiring social functions and 64,053 neglected children. Based on their existence, of the 183,104 children, they consist of 106,406 Children in Child Welfare Institutions and 76,698 Children in Families (<https://kemensos.go.id/> accessed on 1 April 2021, in Setyowati, Rr, dkk, 2021:2 ).

Street children are part of an anti-structured society that is spontaneous and is considered contrary to the established structure. Street children form in groups because they have the same tendencies and patterns among their fellow members, but not in a hierarchical or broad society structure. The logical consequence experienced by street children, as a marginalized group, is that they experience various dimensions of exclusion such as discrimination and exploitation in the social, economic, and political life of the city. Setyowati & Imron (2016) highlighted the problems of the street girl then led to the effort to survive. The intensity of the presence of children on the streets is not only motivated by factors of family economic pressure (poverty), but is also influenced by other variables, such as the massive violence that occurs in the family environment, disharmony of roles and functions of family institutions, and the influence of the social environment (Subhansyah, 1996:4).

Apart from the factors mentioned above, street children must get their full rights, including civil rights and independence, the right to a family environment and choices of care, the right to basic health and welfare, the right to education and culture, and the right to protection.

specifically (Darmawan, 2008:28). Community elements that play a role in child protection are not only individuals but also involve other parties such as community organizations, the Child Protection Commission, Non-Governmental Organizations and other organizations that have a concern for child protection (Fitriani, 2016:255). One of the non-governmental organizations engaged in seeking child protection in Indonesia is ALIT Foundation (*Arek Lintang*). This is an interesting thing because it is one of the findings of the research on street children conducted by Rr Nanik Setyowati, et al (2021).

The ALIT Foundation is a non-governmental organization founded by Mrs. Yulianti Umrah and Mr. Gunardi Aswanto along with other fellow student activists after the New Order era. The ALIT Foundation was founded by five student movement activists based on the encouragement of street children who have been accompanied by one of the founders of the ALIT Foundation, Mrs. Yulianti Umrah. ALIT Foundation was established on April 22, 1999 in Surabaya. The ALIT Foundation has several programs implemented including the Rights Program. The Children's Rights Program is a program that aims to seek fulfillment and realize equal rights for all children. Through the implementation of the children's rights program, the ALIT Foundation plays a role in child protection realized through community-based child assistance. (ALIT Foundation Document).

The community approach is one of the important factors in contributing a model or form of child protection. Community involvement is also an important part of efforts to improve the quality of life of the next generation (Wismayanti and Noviana, 2011:211). In Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection, it is stated that every child has the right to live, grow, and develop according to their potential, this applies to all children without exception. But in reality there are still many children whose rights have not been fulfilled, so that children are in difficult situations or neglected and even experience wrong treatment and acts of violence (Astuti and Suhendi, 2014: 216). For this reason, this study discusses the survival strategy of street children who do not occupy a halfway house in the city of Surabaya through the assistance of the ALIT Foundation.

## RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses a qualitative approach with a qualitative descriptive design, with the consideration of revealing problems naturally without intervention from researchers. Researchers use qualitative research methods, with the aim of exploring in depth an event or events that exist. Because qualitative research itself is defined as a scientific research that aims to understand an event or event in a natural social context by prioritizing a process of deep communication interaction between the researcher and the event or event being studied.

Source of the data that the author uses in this study is the type of primary data and secondary data, where primary data is data that directly collected by researchers from the first source. The primary data in this study are field findings derived from interviews with informants in the field. Trying to collect data from various informants with various variants. While secondary data is data obtained indirectly in the form of documents, which can also be said as additional data that is used as a reference and elaboration of primary data. In the form of books, research journals, research documents, information from the mass media and so on, regarding the role of the ALIT Foundation in providing assistance through programs that are implemented as a survival strategy for street children who do not occupy in halfway house.

The theory used is implementation theory according to Merilee S. Grindle. According to Grindle's theory, there are two main variables that become indicators of program success, namely policy content and implementation environment. The policy content variables consist of the extent of the interests of the target group, the types of benefits received by the target group, the extent to which changes are desired from a policy, the location of decision making, program implementers, and the resources involved. Meanwhile, the implementation environment variable consists of the strategies owned by the actors in implementing policies, the characteristics of the ruling institutions, the level of responsiveness and compliance of the target group.

### **THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ALIT FOUNDATION'S CHILDREN RIGHTS PROGRAM**

The Children Rights Program is a program that combines human rights and humanitarian development approaches. There are three approaches in the ALIT Foundation's Child Rights Program, namely: (1) Children's participation that focuses on child intervention (2) Community development efforts that focus on empowering families, parents, and the environment around children (3) Advocacy approaches that encourage policy change and culture in favor of child protection. The purpose of the Children's Rights Program is to realize the existence of equal rights for all children so that every child can enjoy their rights and can live in an environment that respects children's rights. This is in accordance with the vision of the ALIT Foundation which is to develop equality for all children to achieve their rights.

The target of the ALIT Foundation's Children Rights Program is children aged 6-17 years who have special needs, where these children are neglected or have their rights taken away so that they cannot grow and develop optimally. This is in accordance with the mission of the ALIT Foundation, which is to promote the condition of marginalized children such as street children, children from poor areas in the middle of cities and remote areas, as well as children from minority groups. ALIT assisted children in the Surabaya area are 97 assisted children aged 5-17 years (kindergarten, elementary, junior to high school age). The assisted children of the Surabaya ALIT Foundation consist of 58 boys and 39 girls with the following details: Kindergarten (9 children), elementary school (48 children), junior high school (27 children), vocational school (8 children), not yet in school (3 children) and drop out (2 children) (Source: Basic Children's Data for Surabaya Region, 2021).

The informants in this study were 4 people who lived along the railroad tracks in Ketintang Baru Surabaya.

The profile can be seen in table 1 below.

**Table 1: Informant Profile**

No.	Name	Education	Profile	Description
1.	RS 10 years old (girl)	Grade 5 Elementary School	RS is tall and has a long hair. RS has a sweet face and white skin. Her mother is a scavenger and has been separated with her biological father.	Living along the Ketintang Baru Railway.
2	YF 12 years old (girl)	Grade VIII Junior High School	YF has medium height and not too high with brown skin. Her parents are immigrants	Living along the Ketintang Baru Railway.
3	BG 9 years old (boy)	Grade 4 Elementary School	BG is thin with brown skin. His parents have been divorced. His mother is a factory worker. BG was hard educated since childhood	Living along the Ketintang Baru Railway.
4	AR 16 years old (girl)	Grade X Vocational School	AR has a brown hair, medium height, and thin. Everyday AR helps her mother selling in PJB Office, Ketintang Surabaya.	Living along the Ketintang Baru Railway.

**Source: Primary Data**

Research informants, namely YF and his friends chose a survival strategy by complaining or telling the father's dishonorable actions to adults or people they trust. Another strategy needed to overcome so that children can be protected from harmful actions is to provide special assistance carried out by certain parties, one of which is from Lembaga Swadaya Masyarakat (LSM). The Surabaya ALIT Foundation is one of the foundations engaged in child protection and

has the target group, namely children who live along the edge of the Ketintang Baru railway. The ALIT Foundation seeks to provide protection in the form of training and education activities that are provided directly to the assisted children. The ALIT Foundation also provides several materials in the form of child protection modules for assisted children regarding ways that can be done to protect themselves from situations that endanger children.

The strategy that can be done is to provide assistance to children, especially to children who do not get special attention from parents. This condition causes children to have tantrums more easily and take actions aimed at getting the attention of those around them. The Surabaya ALIT Foundation also provides a form of assistance to parents of children who live on the edge of the railway by forming a parent forum, where the forum serves as a medium of communication with children's parents so that they understand good parenting methods and prioritize the fulfillment of children's rights without use violence against children.

The program implementation process is carried out after the program is determined through decision making and strategic and operational stages carried out in order to achieve the expected goals. The implementation of the Child Rights Program also goes through a series of stages or processes to achieve the objectives. The stages of implementing the Child Rights Program at the ALIT Foundation can be seen in the following table.

**Table 2. Implementation Stages of Child Rights Program**

No.	Implementation Stage	Strategy
1.	Activity Modules Organization	Compiling module for each activity as a guide of activity implementation to achieve the expected goal.
2.	Socialization	Direct socialization to assisted child related with implemented program and activity.
3.	Activity Implementation	Implementing education and training activity to the target group (assisted child), in the form of: Perlina Class (Child Protection), Literacy, <i>Life Skill</i> activity, Interest and Talent and also Parents Forum.
4.	Monitoring dan Evaluation	Monitoring condition and child's growing every month and also evaluating the implemented activity.

**Source: Primary Data**

The first stage in the implementation of the Child Rights Program is the organization of activity modules. In carrying out activities, the ALIT Foundation has a module that is used as a guide. The activity module is prepared by the ALIT Team as a guide to implementers so that the activity objectives can be achieved optimally. One of the modules used is the Child Protection Module (Perlina). The Perlina module was created as a response to the condition of children who experience cases of violence and exploitation in various regions but lack significant support in terms of protection related to their rights as regulated in the Child Protection Act. The Perlina module compiled by the ALIT Foundation has been practiced by ALIT volunteers in various assisted areas, one of which is in the city of Surabaya with the target group. In addition to the Perlina Module, there are modules for other activities including, children's athletics modules, life skills modules, and parenting modules. One of the benefits of implementing modules in activities is that it can condition activities to be more well-planned with clear results or outputs (Rahdiyanta, 2016:1).

The next stage is the socialization of activities. Socialization of activities is carried out directly to the target group by providing information related to activities that will be carried out together. The outreach activities were carried out by ALIT Foundation volunteers by visiting the homes of assisted children. Through these socialization activities, the ALIT Foundation also strives to build good relationships and communication with parents of children. Efforts to socialize activities by the ALIT Foundation to the target group are carried out in a family way and without coercion. Socialization aims to raise knowledge and understanding from various parties, one of which is the target group so that they are willing and able to carry out their role in the success of common goals (Herdiana, Dian, 2018: 19).

The form of implementation of child mentoring activities at the ALIT Foundation is realized through education and training activities provided to the target group. The realization of the educational and training activities of the ALIT Foundation include: Child Protection Class Activities (Perlina), Literacy Activities, Life Skills and Talent Interest Activities, as well as Assisted Children's Parents Forum. Through education and training activities carried out, the ALIT Foundation helps assisted children to learn about self-protection and can develop interests and talents according to the potential of each child. In carrying out these activities, the ALIT Foundation also cooperates with several other parties to support the activities carried out.

The last stage of implementing the ALIT Foundation's Child Rights Program is monitoring and evaluation. Monitoring is carried out directly (home visits) to determine the condition and development of the assisted children. Monitoring activities are carried out once a month by the monitoring team from the ALIT Foundation. Monitoring activities carried out by the ALIT Foundation aim to monitor the condition of the family, health, and education of the assisted children on a regular basis. The result of monitoring is a document in the form of intervention data from the target group. Next is evaluation activities, evaluation activities are carried out regularly after the implementation of activities. The existence of an evaluation aims to find out the obstacles or shortcomings of the activities that have been carried out so that subsequent activities are carried out better.

## IMPLEMENTING CHILDREN'S ASSISTANCE THROUGH EDUCATION AND TRAINING ACTIVITY TO THE TARGET GROUP

The implementation of the ALIT Foundation's Children's Rights Program is manifested in education and training activities for assisted children. Education and training activities carried out by the ALIT Foundation are a form of assistance provided with the aim of seeking to fulfill children's rights so that all children can grow and develop optimally and live without violence. Every child has the right to develop interests and talents for their own development so that the child's growth and development process runs optimally. A child who experiences a process of good growth and development that takes place optimally is able to make a positive contribution to society and the development of the nation. Conversely, if a child experiences various obstacles in the process of growth and development, it will also become an obstacle for society and the state (Apriyanita, 2017: 244).

The ALIT Foundation strives to provide assistance to the target group through education and training activities so that all children have the same opportunity to grow and develop properly and optimally. The forms of education and training activities for assisted children can be observed in the following table.

**Table 3. Children Assistance Through Education and Training Activity to the Target Group**

No.	Type of Activity	Benefits
1.	Perlina Class (Child Protection)	Assisted child can learn about self-protection material and how to ask adult for while facing the dangerous situation.
2.	Literacy Activity	Through literacy activities, assisted children can learn together in a comfortable atmosphere and without coercion. In addition, assisted children can learn through a variety of available learning resources and knowledge.
3.	<i>Life Skill</i> Activity and Interest Talent	Through life skill and interest talent activities, assisted children can develop their potential and interests and talents through joint activities and facilities provided by the ALIT Foundation.
4.	Parents Forum Activity	The parents-child forum activity is a forum provided by the ALIT Foundation for parents of assisted children. Parents are provided with information and insight on good parenting and economic empowerment activities for their parents.

**Source: Primary Data**

Activities in the Perlina (Child Protection) Class at the ALIT Foundation are learning about how to protect yourself from various conditions that can threaten personal safety. The material in the Perlina class comes from the Perlina Module. The Perlina Module consists of eleven units of material on self-protection and how to ask adults for help when a child is in a dangerous condition. Perlina class activities for assisted children are carried out without coercion and prioritize the comfort of the child. In addition, the method of delivering self-protection material from the module is in simple language that is easy for children to understand. The material in the Perlina Class is delivered by tutors who have previously been given module training, so that they are able to provide maximum delivery of material to the assisted children in the Perlina Class.

Literacy activities are learning activities with assisted children together with tutors. Literacy activities at the ALIT Foundation are filled with learning together about various sciences in a fun atmosphere. One of the literacy activities carried out at the ALIT Foundation is the Independent Learning Class. The existence of this independent learning class is motivated by the Covid-19 pandemic situation where many schools are closed and carry out online learning. The main material in the Independent Learning Class ALIT is optimizing the three pillars of growth and development, namely physical motor, mental social, and language cognition. The material is realized in several activities including sports activities, music arts, dance arts, and literacy activities. In carrying out the Independent Learning Class, the ALIT Foundation also collaborates with Anak Bangsa Bisa Foundation (YABB) by providing children's learning facilities by providing computer and laptop assistance for learning activities for children assisted by ALIT.

Life skills and talent interests activities at the ALIT Foundation are filled with the development of children's interests and talents. The ALIT Foundation provides facilities in the form of places and tools that can be used for life skill activities and talent interests. The forms of life skill activities in activities with assisted children are cooking classes, gardening, making handicrafts, learning drapery techniques from cloth, learning to sew and screen printing. As for interests and talents, there are athletic activities, learning traditional musical instruments and traditional dances. Through life skill activities and talent interests, the ALIT Foundation seeks to accommodate and facilitate the potential of assisted children so that they can develop their interests and talents so that they can grow and develop optimally. Potential is something that is used to see or determine various things such as intelligence, talent, achievement etc. The development of children's potential is carried out by recognizing children's interests and talents from an early age (Nihayah, 2015: 138).

The parent forum activity is a forum for parents of assisted children as well as a means of communication between parents and the ALIT Foundation. The purpose of establishing a parent forum is to increase parents' knowledge about good parenting. In addition, through the parent forum, the ALIT Foundation also seeks to help the economic condition of parents through the economic empowerment of their parents. Through parent forum activities, it is hoped that the assisted children can get the best care provided by their parents and an environment that supports the child's growth and development so that it runs optimally. Parenting is the attitude or treatment of parents towards children that will affect the character and behavior of children, both affect emotional, social and intellectual competence (Sholihah, 2021:61).

### **PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

The implementation of the ALIT Foundation's Children's Rights Program went well in accordance with the analysis of the implementation success according to Merilee S. Grindle with two variables, namely the policy content variable and the implementation environment. The policy content variable consists of 6 indicators, namely:

(a) The interest of the target group is the environmental conditions of the assisted children along the Ketintang Baru railway which require protection measures because they are vulnerable to acts of violence and exploitation. In addition, assisted children have equal opportunities to grow and develop and live without violence (b) Types of benefits received are the fulfillment of children's rights and equal opportunities to hone life skills and develop interests and talents according to their potential and learn about self-protection (c) The extent to which the desired change is that the child can protect himself from situations that endanger the child. In addition, children are expected to grow and develop optimally both cognitively, physically and mentally (d) The location of decision making related to program implementation decisions that come from the leadership that has previously been discussed with the ALIT Foundation team until implementation in the field (e) The program implementers consist of the ALIT team on duty in accordance with their respective duties consisting of staff, volunteers or tutors, and implementing parties in the field (f) The resources involved are related to existing facilities and other parties or institutions others who cooperate with ALIT for the benefit of child protection.

While the implementation environment variable consists of 3 indicators, namely: (a) The strategy of implementing policies by actors related to the delivery of information or socialization to the target group by fostering good relations with the child's parents in a familial manner without any coercion to the target group (b) Characteristics of the powerful institutions related to the background of the ALIT Foundation as one of the non-governmental institutions engaged in child protection in addition to that related to the condition of assisted children who are eligible target groups to receive forms of protection and fulfillment of their rights (c) Level of compliance and response, namely related to the positive response from parents and assisted children as evidenced by good participation and cooperation in every activity carried out.

According to Grindle (in Subianto, 2020:20), policy implementation relates to issues of conflict, decisions, and who gets what from a policy. Through the implementation of the children's rights program, the ALIT Foundation seeks to help assisted children fulfill their rights in the form of mentoring activities through joint education and training. a sense of togetherness and mutual support without seeing a child as a subordinate in a community group but as a social subject whose rights must be protected (Wismayanti and Noviana, 2011:211)

### **CONCLUSION**

Street children who experience violence also tend to be silent if no one else is paying attention. LSM such as the ALIT Foundation are very helpful in assisting street children along the Ketintang railway area who experience violence so that they do not only survive but also dare to choose an attitude and act and take the fight in the sense of being brave to report it so that the chain violence can be cut off. The fulfillment of the basic rights of street children must also be carried out so that street children can be free from violence. The responsibility to protect children is not only the duty of the state. The community can participate in contributing to child protection efforts through non-governmental institutions, one of which is the ALIT Foundation

which is engaged in child protection and participates in protection efforts through the implementation of the Child Rights Program. ALIT Foundation plays a role in realizing child protection through assistance in the form of educational and training activities carried out with assisted children. Street children have the opportunity to grow and develop optimally without violence. And this is one of the survival strategies carried out by street children who do not occupy in Surabaya halfway house in facing the violence.

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## Abstract

Children are the young generation who are the hope and future of the nation. Every child needs protection and guidance in the process of growth and development both physically, mentally and socially. Especially for street children who do not live in a halfway house in the face of violence in the city of Surabaya. Community involvement in the protection of street children is also an important part in improving the quality of the nation's next generation. One of the community's involvements in child protection is realized through Non-Governmental Organizations. This study aims to determine the role of the ALIT Foundation in providing assistance to street children who do not live in a halfway house. This study uses a qualitative approach located along the Ketintang Surabaya railway. The results showed that the survival strategy of street children who did not occupy in halfway house against violence in the city of Surabaya was through the assistance of the ALIT Foundation and in accordance with Grindle's theory, there were two main variables that became indicators of the success of policy implementation, namely the policy content variable and the implementation environment.

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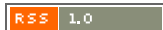
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