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Experience of Street Children Living in Pant Asuhan Aneuk Nanggroe Aceh Province Indonesia

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Abstract

Introduction: Studies in Indonesia suggested that the main reasons for children to live on the streets include escapism from a broken family, other family issues, and poverty. Living on the street exposed these children to immense negative social and moral issues that would affect their future. One of the steps taken by the government to handle the situation was placing them in an orphanage house (Panti Asuhan) until they reached early adulthood. However, many of these children returned to the street doing random jobs after staying at Panti Asuhan for several years. The reason for their decision is unclear. This study explored the experience of these children while living in Panti Asuhan. **Methods:** This study employed exploratory qualitative design by utilizing in-depth individual interviews with the street children living in a Panti Asuhan in Aceh, Indonesia. The interview data were audio recorded and transcribed verbatim. The data was analyzed thematically with the assistance of N-Vivo 12 software. **Findings:** fifteen street children with a mean age of 15-19 years participated in the study. Participants reported overall experiences during their living in the Panti Asuhan. Furthermore, this study also found that insufficient support was provided by the

government for these children after living in Panti Asuhan to help them live a decent life.

Conclusion: Support for street children should not end at Panti Asuhan, and it needs to be extended according to the needs of these children so they will not be going back to the street to make ends meet © 2025 Universiti Putra Malaysia Press. All rights reserved.

Author keywords

Aceh province; Experience; Panti Asuhan; Street children; Support

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