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Construction of Self-Esteem and Self-Confidence in Stateless Children: Scoping Literature Review



Abstract: - Statelessness, defined as the lack of citizenship, is a complex issue governed by international law. Factors contributing to statelessness include gaps in nationality, political policies, and individuals moving to countries at birth. Stateless status can affect individuals of all ages, and children born to stateless parents are particularly vulnerable. This article explores the impact of self-confidence and self-esteem on the future preferences of stateless children. While international human rights instruments recognize basic rights for all, regardless of citizenship, many countries link citizenship to the full enjoyment of rights. Research methods employed a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) to gather insights from previous studies. The results and discussion section highlights the negative impact of statelessness on self-esteem and self-confidence, with stateless individuals often feeling invisible and undervalued. The lack of citizenship not only undermines political and legal status but also tests the limits of self-confidence and self-esteem. The article also discusses the challenges faced by stateless children, such as legal instability, discrimination, limited access to services, identity uncertainty, violence, and exploitation. It emphasizes the importance of addressing these challenges to protect the rights of stateless children, promote their self-confidence, and enable their holistic development. The article underscores the need for legal recognition, emotional support, education, legal protection, psychological education, and involvement in positive activities to enhance the self-confidence of stateless children.

Keywords: Stateless, Children, Self-esteem, Self-confidence, Legal protection.

I. INTRODUCTION

Statelessness or an individual who does not have citizenship, is someone who is not recognized as a citizen by any country based on its laws, this is seen in the framework of international law [1]. Individuals with stateless conditions can be caused by several factors, namely Gap in nationality, political policies in a country that result in individuals not being able to obtain citizenship, and the second cause is that someone moves countries when they are born [2].

The situation of statelessness for a person is a complex and prolonged problem. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that there are still 12 million stateless people as of 2018 [3]. The state of statelessness does not know the age of the individual. A person can lose citizenship as an adult or even be born stateless [4]. Children born to parents who are stateless have the potential to receive stateless status as well, giving rise to an intergenerational cycle [5]. Considering that children are a vulnerable group, it cannot be denied that children born stateless will suffer a heavier impact.

Children have a series of human rights and basic freedoms that have been recognized in international human rights instruments. As is the universal nature of human rights, these basic rights and freedoms apply to children without exception, including stateless children [6]. However, in fact, many countries make citizenship a practical prerequisite for obtaining optimal respect, protection, and fulfillment of human rights [7]. The reason for this is that citizenship will create a reciprocal legal correlation between the state and citizens. In other words, if someone has citizenship, that individual will have rights and obligations within a country and conversely, the state has certain authorities and obligations towards its citizens [8]. For this reason, a child who has citizenship will receive a guarantee as a citizen, that his or her country has state obligations to respect, protect, and fulfill human rights and basic freedoms [9].

Human rights are the most basic rights, including self-respect and individual human values [10]. These individual values are in the form of equality between the gender positions of men and women as well as equality between large and small nations. Individuals without citizenship will become individuals who are not considered by any country and will find it difficult to obtain rights as human beings in their social environment. It should be emphasized that it is very important for a person to build social relationships in order to increase courage and

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self-confidence [11]. Thus it can be concluded that the treatment of stateless people not only negates their political and legal status but also tests the limits of their self-confidence and self-esteem [12].

One region of the country that has very close relations with Indonesia is Malaysia. Even the states of Malaysia, namely Sabah and Sarawak, are on the same land as Kalimantan Island. Many Indonesian citizens work and live in Malaysia [13]. The Republic of Indonesia's National Human Rights Commission reports that in 2022 as many as 325,477 Indonesian citizens in Malaysia have the potential to be stateless or stateless [14]. The issue of citizenship is a complicated problem and needs to be studied further.

Based on this background, the problem that will be raised in this research is how children with stateless status in Sabah Malaysia perceive their future. This research is urgent and important considering that the emptiness of this aspect of citizenship creates a stereotype that their future will be very bleak or it could even be said that they are children without a future. Thus, the research aims to analyze the influence of self-confidence on the future preferences of children with stateless status in Sabah-Malaysia and to analyze the influence of self-esteem on the future preferences of children with stateless status in Sabah-Malaysia

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Status as an Indonesian citizen is constitutionally guaranteed by the 1945 Constitution. However, we should all be aware that the state constitution not only guarantees the rights of every citizen but also determines the existence of constitutional obligations that must be fulfilled [15]. The rights of citizens must be recognized, respected, and fulfilled by the state, whereas the obligations of citizens are the rights of the state which must also be recognized, respected, and fulfilled. (fulfilled) by every citizen. Thus, both citizens and the state have their rights and obligations in the constitutional relationship between them. The rights of citizens guaranteed in the Constitution are usually referred to as constitutional citizens' rights, which we must distinguish from the definition of human rights [16].

Every country should guarantee and respect human rights and protect and enforce them in their respective countries. This obligation is not only positive, namely to be enforced or implemented. In this case, especially regarding human rights which are universal and have universal application as formulated in the Declaration of Human Rights [17] [18]. Therefore, as emphasized in the Preamble to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights/UDHR, human rights need to be protected by formulating them in legal instruments so that people will not be forced to choose rebellion as a last resort to oppose injustice and oppression as shown in the history of human rights.

Article 15 Universal Declaration of Human Rights emphasizes that everyone has the right to have citizenship, namely a legal bond between a person and a State. The self-identity obtained from citizenship can also include the authority of citizens to exercise the rights inherent in them. People who have citizenship have the right to choose where they live, apply for travel documents, and can obtain a marriage certificate or certificate, This is different from what happens to stateless people, in international law referred to as Stateless persons [19].

Stateless people will have difficulty claiming rights and services where they live. Data shows that 3.7 million people are stateless in 78 countries. Meanwhile, UNCHR estimates that 10 million people globally are Stateless. Law Number 6 of 2011[20] concerning Immigration, 2011 revealed that there are several factors why a person does not have citizenship, namely:

1. Legal Conflicts; This conflict is related to the cancellation of citizenship. Some countries allow their citizens to renounce citizenship even before the citizen obtains citizenship from the country he is applying for. This is also due to the conflict that one country does not allow cancellation of citizenship before obtaining another citizenship, but on the one hand, the destination country does not grant citizenship to individuals who still hold their original citizenship status.
2. Changes in Country Territory; When a country experiences a change in sovereignty, its citizenship law can change, followed by its implementation. In this situation, a person becomes stateless if they do not apply for citizenship following the applicable laws or regulations.
3. Marriage Law; There are conditions where several countries change the citizenship status of their citizens, for example A woman marries a citizen of another country, she must immediately obtain her husband's citizenship and if not, then she does not have citizenship, This can also apply to a woman who divorces, she can lose the citizenship she acquired when she married.
4. Administrative Procedures; When applying for citizenship, there are many procedures that a person must carry out so that his or her application can be granted, however, this can be an obstacle due to a person's inability to apply for citizenship.
5. Discrimination; Discrimination can occur based on ethnicity, race, religion, or skin color. Political opinions and other factors also constitute discrimination if they contain words that are prejudiced or if the implementation of the law results in discriminatory treatment. This is one of the reasons why someone does not receive citizenship from

a country, for example, the Rohingya ethnic group in Myanmar.

6. Not having a birth certificate; The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child state that every child, wherever born, must be registered immediately after birth. Without this proof of birth or recognized birth registration, it is difficult for children to confirm their identity and obtain citizenship.

7. Cancellation of Citizenship by the State; Loss of a person's citizenship occurs when a state cancels a person's citizenship because the state is carrying out discriminatory procedures. This action is usually followed by the person's expulsion.

8. The statelessness experienced by certain people can endanger or even destroy their lives. And you need to know, there are groups of people without citizen status who fall into the category of refugees or refugees and there are also those who don't.

III. RESEARCH METHODS

To get answers to research questions, the method used in the research is the Systematic Literature Review (SLR) method. This method is carried out by identifying, reviewing, assessing, and interpreting previous research [21]. Through the SLR method, this research will review and identify scientific studies systematically by following the steps that have been determined based on the process. Based on the stages explained above, to obtain study results, journal articles were collected with the keywords self-confidence and self-esteem, stateless, or a combination of these words. Data collection was carried out by filtering all the articles obtained from the study articles that were successfully obtained. The articles used in this research are articles that are closely related to the keywords used which were obtained from journal websites with the help of the Publish and Perish application. The article data is shown in table form which includes the author's name, year of publication, journal name, and research findings. The selected articles are articles that have a similar research theme and then the articles are analyzed and summarized. The research results were then made into a complete discussion in this article.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. *Self-Esteem in Stateless Child*

Previous research has examined self-esteem in stateless or stateless individuals. Research results from Rosmawati[10] that individuals with stateless status or without citizenship will find it difficult to obtain human rights and equality so these individuals will feel worthless. Interview results from UNHCR also support those individuals, especially children with stateless status, who said that they felt invisible, lived in the shadows of the world, and felt worthless [2]. Alenzi[22] stated the results of his research that there are significant differences between individuals who do not have citizenship and individuals who are citizens of Kuwait regarding self-esteem, the results found that citizens of Kuwait have higher self-esteem than individuals without citizenship, this is because individuals with the status of citizens can easily get protection and rights from their country so that the individual feels more appreciated.

Discussion of self-esteem in stateless children is an important issue in the context of human rights and child development. Stateless children, also known as stateless children, often face various challenges that can affect their self-esteem. Many factors can be taken into consideration as to why children with stateless status have lower self-esteem. Firstly, there is legal instability. Stateless children often face legal uncertainty regarding their status. They may not have access to basic rights such as education, health care, or legal protection. This uncertainty can damage their self-esteem and hinder their development.

Discrimination factors can also influence. Stateless children are often targets of discrimination and stigmatization by society or even the government. This can lower their self-esteem and affect their psychological well-being. A further factor is limited access to services. Stateless children may have limited or even prohibited access to basic services such as education, health care, and housing. This can be detrimental to their development and reduce their self-esteem. Identity Uncertainty Stateless children often face identity uncertainty. They may not have official identity documents or face problems proving who they are. This can interfere with the development of their self-esteem because identity is an important part of a person's self-concept. Violence and Exploitation Stateless children may be more vulnerable to exploitation, abuse, or human trafficking. This can seriously damage their self-esteem. Stateless children can feel isolated from society because they may not be recognized as official members of a particular community. This can affect their self-esteem and their social well-being. Stateless children can feel isolated from society because they may not be recognized as official members of a particular community. This can affect their self-esteem and their social well-being.

Governments and human rights organizations around the world must work together to address these problems and protect the rights of stateless children. This involves providing clear legal status, access to basic services, and protection against discrimination and exploitation. In this way, these children can develop healthy self-esteem and

have the same opportunities for growth and development as other children.

B. Self-Confidence in Stateless Child

Self-confidence in individuals with stateless status has been discussed previously. The following is previous research along with the results of research that has been found previously. Matin & Maggiolini[23] state that citizenship status is closely related to political existence and social position, therefore individuals with citizenship have higher self-confidence compared to individuals without citizenship, especially when they talk about their identity. Stateless individuals are significantly less confident that they will be able to mobilize needed life resources when severe hardship occurs [24].

Stateless children's self-confidence is an important aspect of their development that can often be influenced by a variety of factors. Self-confidence is belief in one's abilities and worth, and every child, including stateless children, has the right to develop and maintain positive self-confidence. Self-confidence in stateless children can also be influenced by several factors. The first factor is the lack of identity recognition. It is important to acknowledge the identity of stateless children, including their cultural and ethnic backgrounds. This helps them feel accepted and valued within their social group, which can increase self-confidence.

The next factor is emotional support. These children need strong emotional support from family, friends, teachers, and community members to overcome the challenges they face. By having a positive social network, they are more likely to feel confident. Education is also a factor. Education can open access for stateless children to quality and inclusive education, which is a key step in building self-confidence. Education that allows them to develop and achieve will provide a positive sense of accomplishment.

Legal Recognition and Protection Providing a clear legal status for stateless children and protecting them from discrimination or abuse is important. This will help them feel more secure and respected, which supports the development of self-confidence. It is important to recognize that these children may experience psychological distress due to the uncertainty and stigma associated with their status. Psychological education and mental health support can help them overcome this and increase self-confidence. Involvement in Positive Activities is also important. Encouraging stateless children to engage in positive activities such as sports, arts, or volunteering can help them feel worthy and achieve, which can increase self-confidence.

It is important to remember that each child is a unique individual, and their self-confidence may develop in different ways. Therefore, an approach that is sensitive to their needs and experiences is essential in building the self-confidence of stateless children. With the right support, they can feel more confident in living their lives, reaching their full potential, and contributing to society.

CONCLUSION

Someone who does not have citizenship status can be called Stateless. Individuals without citizenship will find it difficult to obtain human rights and equality so these individuals will feel worthless. This is because individuals with stateless status cannot easily obtain protection and rights from their country so these individuals feel less valuable. Stateless children's self-confidence is also an important aspect of their development that can often be influenced by a variety of factors. It is important to recognize that these children may experience psychological distress due to the uncertainty and stigma associated with their status. Children also need to have positive role models in their lives. It is recommended that further research examine directly the locations of areas where many individuals with stateless cases are found. Research methods that can be used in the future are quantitative methods or qualitative methods. It is hoped that the research results will be able to better describe the conditions and situations of individuals with stateless status from an empirical perspective

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