

SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN: Prevention Efforts in Jambi

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DOI: [10.30631/alrisalah.v25i2.1495](https://doi.org/10.30631/alrisalah.v25i2.1495)

Submitted: January 9, 2024; Revised: June 30, 2024; Accepted: 30 December, 2025

Abstract: This study aims to carefully investigate sexual violence against children and its countermeasures in Jambi City. The increasingly massive increase in violence against children has become a concern in recent years. This research is empirical legal research employing observation, interviews, and document analysis to collect qualitative data. The research findings show that the problem of sexual violence against children in Jambi City is still a serious issue that requires attention and optimal action steps. Factors such as lack of public understanding, lack of supervision, and low legal awareness are the main contributors to the high rate of sexual violence against children. In addition, this study also assessed the efforts that the government, non-governmental organizations, and the community have made in tackling sexual violence against children. It found a lack of interagency coordination and a need to improve community outreach and education on the issue. Based on these findings, the study recommends policy improvements and increased cooperation between government and non-government agencies in addressing child sexual abuse. Strengthening community outreach and education is also needed to raise awareness and prevention at the community level. Overall, cross-sectoral cooperation from various parties is a must to create a safe environment and protect children from sexual violence in Jambi City.

Keywords: Child Protection, Law Enforcement, Legal Policy, Sexual Violence

Abstrak: Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji secara mendalam mengenai kekerasan seksual terhadap anak dan langkah-langkah penanggulangannya di Kota Jambi. Meningkatnya kekerasan terhadap anak yang semakin masif menjadi perhatian pada beberapa tahun terakhir. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian hukum empiris dengan metode pengumpulan data melalui observasi, wawancara, dan analisis dokumen guna mengumpulkan data secara kualitatif. Temuan

penelitian menunjukkan bahwa permasalahan kekerasan seksual terhadap anak di Kota Jambi masih menjadi isu serius yang memerlukan perhatian dan langkah tindakan yang optimal. Faktor-faktor seperti kurangnya pemahaman masyarakat, kekurangan pengawasan, dan rendahnya kesadaran hukum merupakan penyumbang utama terhadap tingginya angka kekerasan seksual terhadap anak. Selain itu, penelitian ini juga menilai upaya-upaya yang telah dilakukan oleh pemerintah, lembaga non-pemerintah, dan masyarakat dalam menanggulangi kekerasan seksual terhadap anak. Ditemukan bahwa terdapat kekurangan dalam koordinasi antar lembaga dan perlunya peningkatan dalam penyuluhan serta pendidikan masyarakat terkait masalah ini. Dengan berlandaskan temuan ini, penelitian merekomendasikan perbaikan kebijakan dan peningkatan kerjasama antara pemerintah dan lembaga non-pemerintah dalam menangani kekerasan seksual terhadap anak. Penguatan dalam penyuluhan dan pendidikan masyarakat juga diperlukan untuk meningkatkan kesadaran dan pencegahan di tingkat komunitas. Secara keseluruhan, kerjasama lintas sektor dari berbagai pihak menjadi suatu keharusan untuk menciptakan lingkungan yang aman dan melindungi anak-anak dari kekerasan seksual di Kota Jambi.

Kata Kunci: Perlindungan Anak, Penegakan Hukum, Kebijakan Aturan, Kekerasan Seksual

Introduction

The Indonesian Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (PPPA) in 2018 released a survey on the lived experiences of children and adolescents (SNPHAR), which showed that 1 in 17 boys and 1 in 11 girls had experienced sexual crimes. This fact also indicates that children are not only victims of sexual crimes but also perpetrators of sexual crimes.¹ Sexual crimes against children are crimes against humanity that include violations of human rights. Since 2014, the Government of the Republic of Indonesia has declared Indonesia a child sexual crime emergency and has established the National Movement Against Child Sexual Crimes.² This action is threatened with severe sanctions in the form of the

death penalty based on Law Number 17 of 2016 concerning the Second Amendment to Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection.³ Ironically, the number of sexual crimes against children has consistently increased, even during the pandemic. It is a fact that cases of crimes against children have increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. This new mode of sexual crime is allegedly related to the massive use of information technology during the pandemic. Data from the Online Information System for the Protection of Women and Children (Simfoni) of the Ministry of PPPA shows that in 2019, there were 11,057 cases of violence against children in Indonesia. In 2020, it increased to 11,278 cases (1.95%), and in 2021, it increased again by 22.3% to 14,517

¹ KemenPPPA Luncurkan Hasil Survei Nasional Pengalaman Hidup Anak Dan Remaja SNPHAR Tahun 2018," accessed on September 17, 2023.

² Kekerasan Seksual Oleh Sosok Ayah Terus Terulang," accessed on October 4, 2023, <https://jambi.antara.com/berita/510937/kekerasan-seksual-oleh-sosok-ayah-terus-terulang>.

³ Andika Wijaya, and Wida Peace Ananta, *Darurat Kejahatan Seksual*, Cet. 1 (Jakarta: Sinar Grafika, 2016), p. 96; Rifdah Alifiyah and Isa Anshori, "Legal Protection for Children in Cases of Domestic Violence in the Indonesian Households", *El-Ussrah: Jurnal Hukum Keluarga* 6, no. 1 (2023), <https://doi.org/10.22373/ujhk.v6i2.19153>

cases. The majority of sexual crime cases, 45%, occur in the domestic environment.⁴

Jambi Province is one of those experiencing an increasing trend of violence against children during the pandemic.⁵ Based on information submitted by the Jambi Province Office of Women's Empowerment, Child Protection, and Population Control, most cases of violence against children occurred in Jambi City. Data from the Jambi City Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Office noted that in 2017, there were 46 cases of violence against children. In 2018, the number of cases increased to 50; in 2019, it decreased to 32. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of cases increased to 53 (40%), and in 2021 it rose sharply to 71 (50%).⁶ Jambi City is designated a child-friendly city under the Nindya title, awarded by the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection, based on an assessment conducted by the Office of the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection of the Republic of Indonesia. The designation has been held since 2018.⁷

However, in 2023, Jambi City was downgraded from the Nindya category of child-friendly cities to the Madya category. This decline was due to the high rate of violence against children in Jambi City from 2022 to 2023. However, Jambi City is known as a religious region, cultured and highly upholds customs as the traditional *seloko* "adat bersendikan syara', syara' bersendikan kitabullah".⁸ This is highly ironic: why do such shameful incidents occur in this religious and customary city? This is the reason why this research focuses on the many cases of sexual violence against children in Jambi City.

Sexual crimes during the pandemic have been the focus of many studies. Kofman and Garfin put forward the results of their research on the relationship between the implementation of the United States Government's policy of forcing its people to do activities at home and the increase in domestic violence during the pandemic, be it physical, psychological, or sexual violence.⁹ Other research reveals that school closures and the rise of online learning have led to an increase in cybercrime against children. The modes range from grooming, distribution of pornographic content, invitations to send indecent content, to direct viewing of sexual

⁴ Laporan Kasus Kekerasan Terhadap Anak dan Perempuan." Accessed on September 17th, 2023. <https://nasional.kompas.com/read/2022/01/20/12435801/laporan-kasus-kekerasan-terhadap-anak-dan-perempuan-meningkat-3-tahun>.

⁵ Kasus Kekerasan Terhadap Perempuan dan Anak di Jambi pada Masa Pandemi Covid-19 Meningkat." Accessed on September 21st, 2023. <https://metrojambi.com/read/2021/11/14/59974/kasus-kekerasan-terhadap-perempuan-dan-anak-di-jambi-pada-masa-pandemi-covid-19-meningkat>.

⁶ Rara Khushshoh Azzahro, "Kasus Kekerasan dan Pelecehan Seksual pada Anak di Kota Jambi Meningkat pada 2021." Accessed on September 22nd, 2023. <https://jambi.tribunnews.com/2022/01/05/kasus-kekerasan-dan-pelecehan-pada-anak-di-kota-jambi-meningkat-pada-2021>.

⁷ Pemkot Jambi Mencatat 123 Kasus Kekerasan Terhadap Perempuan dan Anak." Accessed on September 21st, 2023.

<https://jambi.antaraneews.com/berita/485573/pemkot-jambi-mencatat-123-kasus-kekerasan-terhadap-perempuan-dan-anak>.

⁸ Jamaluddin Arsyad, "Akulturasi Islam Dengan Budaya Melayu," *Doctoral Dissertation* (UIN Raden Fatah Palembang, 2019), p.4-5.

⁹ Yasmin Kofman, and Dana Rose Garfin, "Home is not always a haven: The Domestic Violence Crisis amid The Covid-19 Pandemic", *Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy*, 12 (2020), <https://doi.org/10.1037/tra0000866>; Rizqa Febry Ayu and Khaeruddin Kiramang, "The Family's Roles in the Effects of Working from Home During the Covid-19 Pandemic on Children (A Case Study of Families in Banda Aceh City)", *El-Ussrah: Jurnal Hukum Keluarga* 6, no. 1 (2023), <https://doi.org/10.22373/ujhk.v6i1.11959>

coercion, or what is often called video call sex on children.¹⁰

The massive use of the internet during the pandemic has also resulted in an increase in cases of sexual violence against children and adolescents that occurred through online dating applications. However, various kinds of law enforcement in Indonesia are still felt to be less favorable to victims of sexual crimes, both in terms of regulation and victim protection, and many victims have not received justice.¹¹

The focus on narratives of child sexual abuse during the COVID-19 pandemic confirms that this issue is still not a media concern, unless the case involves a vital figure or celebrity. Narratives of sexual violence cases in media coverage during the implementation of PSBB still reinforce patriarchal culture. The media still does not provide an optimal portion of the news, and there is no narrative of fair and balanced law enforcement for handling sexual crime cases in Indonesia.¹² It requires the active role of all members of society, including government agencies, parents, community organizations, academics, and child observers who are fully involved, to provide legal assistance to victims and apply legal

sanctions that have a deterrent effect on the perpetrators.¹³

Cases of sexual crimes against children must be resolved immediately. Sexual crimes in childhood tend to cause physical and psychological trauma that is very deep and even lifelong for the victims. If this is left unchecked, Indonesia's future is at risk, as today's children will be tomorrow's leaders. This research is fundamental to see what exactly is the root of the problem that has caused a very significant increase in the number of sexual crimes against children during the pandemic, especially in Jambi City. What efforts have been made by interested parties to overcome the rampant sexual violence against children?

Method

This study employs empirical legal research (socio-legal research) to examine sexual violence against children and the effectiveness of prevention efforts in Jambi City. Empirical legal research is particularly suitable because it situates law not merely as normative rules (law in the books), but as a social phenomenon operating within concrete institutional, cultural, and socio-economic contexts (law in action).¹⁴ Through this approach, the research examines how legal norms on child protection are implemented, experienced, and, at times, constrained in practice, particularly during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

¹⁰ Samsul Arifin, and Kholilur Rahman, "Dinamika Kejahatan Dunia Maya Mengenai Online Child Sexual Exploitation Di Tengah Pandemi Covid-19", *Al-Daulah* 10, no. 2 (2021): 89-99.

¹¹ Elvira Zikra, and Tantimin, "Penegakan dan Perlindungan Hukum Terhadap Korban Kejahatan Seksual Maupun Pemerasan Pada Aplikasi Online Dating", *Jurnal Hukum Sasana* 8, no. 1 (2022): 201-218. <https://doi.org/10.31599/sasana.v8i1.1070>; Rohmawati Rohmawati and Syahril Siddik, "Legal Protection for Children Out of Wedlock: Ensuring the Best Interests of Children Through Judge Decisions", *Al-Adalah* 19, no. 2, 315-338. <https://doi.org/10.24042/adalah.v19i2.11761>

¹² Nindi Aristi, et.al., "Fokus Narasi Kekerasan Seksual Pada Portal Berita Daring Selama Pandemi Covid-19", *Jurnal Kajian Komunikasi* 9, no. 1 (2021): 121-137.

¹³ Erma Hari Alijana, "Kedudukan Atas Peran Masyarakat Terhadap Kejahatan Seksual Yang Terjadi Kepada Anak", *Pamulang Law Review* 5, no. 1 (2022): 123-132. DOI: 10.32493/palrev.v5i1.23615; Agustin Hanapi, Sarina Aini, and Cut Endang Puspa Sari, "Bridging Fiqh and Positive Law: A New Paradigm for Child Legality and the Best Interest of the Child in Indonesia", *Juris: Jurnal Ilmiah Syari'ah* 23, no. 2 (2024), <https://doi.org/10.31958/juris.v23i2.10712>

¹⁴ Soerjono Soekanto, *Pengantar Penelitian Hukum* (Jakarta: UI Press, 2014), 51-55; Reza Banakar, *Normativity in Legal Sociology* (Oxford: Hart Publishing, 2015), 23-27.

Data were collected using qualitative methods, including direct observation, in-depth interviews, and document analysis. Observations were conducted to understand institutional practices within government agencies responsible for child protection. Semi-structured interviews were carried out with key informants, including officials from the Regional Technical Implementation Unit for the Protection of Women and Children (UPTD PPA), the Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Office (DP3AP2), and other relevant stakeholders. Document analysis covered statutory regulations, official reports, case statistics, and policy documents related to sexual violence against children.¹⁵ These multiple data sources enabled methodological triangulation, enhancing the credibility and validity of the findings.

The collected data were analyzed using qualitative descriptive-analytical techniques, emphasizing thematic interpretation and contextual legal analysis. This method enables the systematic identification and evaluation of patterns, causal factors, and institutional responses.¹⁶ The analysis was further informed by child protection theory and victimology perspectives to assess both preventive measures and structural obstacles in law enforcement. By integrating empirical findings with legal and socio-theoretical frameworks, this study offers a comprehensive understanding of sexual violence against children. It provides evidence-based recommendations for strengthening preventive and protective mechanisms at the local level.¹⁷

Results and Discussion

Factors Causing the Rise of Sexual Violence Against Children in Jambi

The sexual violence against children is not a new case. Since 2014, the Government of the Republic of Indonesia has declared Indonesia a child sexual crime emergency and has established the National Movement Against Child Sexual Crimes.¹⁸ In response to this emergency, in 2016, the President of the Republic of Indonesia issued Government Regulation instead of Law (Perpu) No. 1 of 2016 concerning the Second Amendment to Law No. 23 of 2002 on Child Protection.

This regulation was issued as a response to the urgency of sexual crimes against children that continue to increase. With the issuance of this Perpu, sexual violence against children has been categorized as an extraordinary crime. This Perpu is known in the mass media as "Perpu Kebiri". In this regulation, for the first time, additional punishment in the form of castration is imposed on sexual predators. The goal is to deter sexual offenders so that these crimes can be minimized. Perpu No. 1 of 2016 was then enacted as Law No. 17 of 2016, concerning the Stipulation of Government,

Secondary Victimization," *Academic Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies* 12, no. 5 (2023): 262-273; Fajri M Kasim et. al., "The Protection of Women and Children Post-Divorce in Sharia Courts in Aceh: A Sociological Perspective, *Ahkam: Jurnal Ilmu Syari'ah* 22, no. 2 (2022), <https://doi.org/10.15408/ajis.v22i2.28747>

- ¹⁸ Ermanita Permatasari, "Perlindungan Terhadap Anak Korban Eksploitasi Seksual dalam Perspektif Yuridis-Normatif dan Psikologis (Studi Kasus Wilayah Hukum Polres Lampung Timur)", *Al-'Adalah* 13, no. 2, 215-226. <https://doi.org/10.24042/adalah.v13i2.1860>; Zuraidah Azkia and Muhamad Sadi Is "Perlindungan Hukum Terhadap Hak Asasi Anak Yang Menjadi Korban Kekerasan", *Nurani: Jurnal Kajian Syari'ah dan Masyarakat* 18, no. 1 (2018), <https://doi.org/10.19109/nurani.v18i1.1904>

¹⁵ Peter Mahmud Marzuki, *Penelitian Hukum* (Jakarta: Kencana, 2017), 133-136.

¹⁶ Matthew B. Miles, A. Michael Huberman, and Johnny Saldaña, *Qualitative Data Analysis: A Methods Sourcebook*, 4th ed. (Los Angeles: SAGE, 2020), 8-12.

¹⁷ Ali Mahrus and Rena Yulia, "Findings the Factors and Proposing the Solution for Preventing

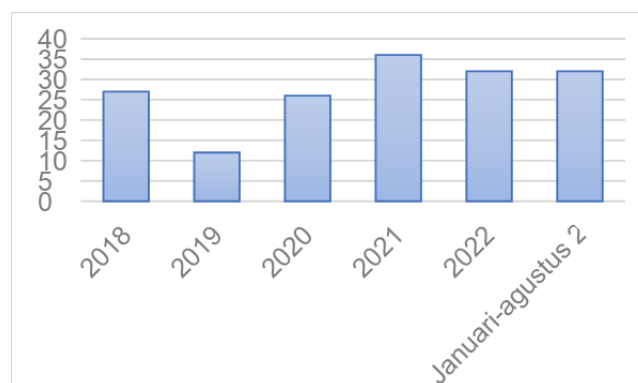
instead of Law No. 1 of 2016 concerning the Second Amendment to Law No. 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection, which was then incorporated into Law.

Since the World Health Organization (WHO) announced the occurrence of a global pandemic of the spread of Corona Virus Disease 2019 (Covid-19), President Joko Widodo has declared a public health emergency through Presidential Decree Number 11 of 2020 concerning the Determination of Corona Virus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) Public Health Emergency and non-natural disasters based on Presidential Decree Number 12 of 2020 concerning the Determination of Non-natural Disasters of the Spread of Corona Virus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) as a National Disaster. Thus began the Indonesian pandemic period. One of the Government's strategies for suppressing the spread of COVID-19 is to implement a Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB) policy. The impact was that the economy plummeted, incomes decreased, and many people lost their jobs. In education, schools are closed, and instruction is delivered online via digital media. On the one hand, the pandemic is a period during which all family members gather for longer than usual. But on the other hand, the togetherness of these family members has another impact in the form of an increase in the number of cases of sexual violence against children.

Based on data from the Regional Technical Implementation Unit for the Protection of Women and Children (UPTD PPA) of the Jambi City Office of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection and Population Control (DP3AP2), it shows that in 2018, there were 27 cases of sexual violence against children in Jambi City. This figure decreased in 2019, with 12 cases of sexual violence against children occurring. However, in 2020, cases again increased to 26, and in 2021, cases peaked at 36. In the last two years, the

number of cases that occurred was 32 cases of sexual violence against children throughout 2022, and 32 cases during the period January to August 2023. As can be seen from the following table:

Figure 1.
Cases of Sexual Violence Against Children In Jambi City During 2018-2023



Source: UPTD PPA Jambi City

The figure shows that there was a significant increase in the number of cases of sexual crimes against children in Jambi City before and after the COVID-19 pandemic. Interestingly, in 2019, the number of cases of sexual violence against children had decreased. This may be the impact of the enactment of Law Number 1 of 2016 concerning the Second Amendment to Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection, which stipulates the maximum threat in the form of the death penalty for perpetrators of sexual violence against children. On the other hand, in 2021, the second year after the pandemic took place, there was a tremendous increase in the number of child victims of sexual violence. Although it dropped to 32 cases in 2022, the figure remained higher than before the pandemic. Even in the January-August 2023 period, the number of cases was the same as the previous year. This data will likely continue to grow through the end of 2023. This fact shows that even though the pandemic has been declared over, cases of sexual violence against children are

increasingly occurring. Initially, it was predicted that sexual violence against children would happen because of the movement and social restriction policies due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was hoped that when the pandemic ended, the number would decrease. But in reality, even though the pandemic has ended, sexual crimes against children continue to increase in number compared to before the pandemic. Several factors cause an increase in the number of cases of sexual crimes against children in Jambi City, including:

1. Economic Factor

Most of the perpetrators of sexual crimes against children in Jambi Province are those who have a weak economy and have irregular jobs, so they tend to have a lot of free time. Similarly, the majority of victims come from low-income families with unstable incomes. Parents' employment and income are not fixed; therefore, they will work to meet the family's needs. The result is that children become neglected or lack attention from their parents. Both parents' work schedules limit the time available to care for their children. As a result, children lack supervision and are vulnerable to becoming victims of child predators. In addition, sexual crimes can also be caused by inadequate housing conditions. Many low-income people live in cramped houses with only one room. As a result, the girl's room and the parents' room are not separated. In addition, the room door is closed only by a thin curtain as a partition. Girls tend to have limited privacy and are easily disrupted. The village's atmosphere, which tends to be quiet and deserted during the day because residents are at work, affords perpetrators a greater opportunity to commit crimes.

2. Education Factor

Low economic status correlates with limited opportunities for higher education. In addition, low parental education affects the

extent of parental awareness to inform and remind children about protecting themselves from sexual crimes. Surveys indicate that most children are emotionally closer to their mothers than to their fathers.¹⁹ Therefore, mothers have an essential role in maintaining the fulfillment of a child's rights and efforts to instill life values, especially those related to the prevention of sexual crimes against a child, especially minors. Her formal educational background strongly influences the mother's knowledge. Highly educated mothers tend to teach their children about the introduction of reproductive organs and what others should not do to them. Conversely, educated mothers tend to ignore it.²⁰

The majority of perpetrators of sexual violence are people who come from groups that do not have education (or have low education) and are older. This is because individuals who are not educated are more likely to engage in deviant behavior or are less able to think clearly about which actions are permissible and which are not.²¹ In 2022, 17 cases of sexual violence reached the trial stage at the Jambi District Court. Of the 17 perpetrators of sexual violence, only one graduated from undergraduate level 1, and 1 is currently studying at university. The other 15 perpetrators had low levels of education; most had completed junior high school or

¹⁹ Tantio Fernando, and Diana Elfida, "Kedekatan Remaja Pada Ibu: Pendekatan Indigenous Psychology", *Jurnal Psikologi* 13, no. 2 (2017): 150-161.

²⁰ Dewi Zolekhah, and Liberty Barokah, "Hubungan Tingkat Pendidikan dan Ekonomi Terhadap Pemberian Pendidikan Seks Pada Usia Dini", *Prepotif: Jurnal Kesehatan Masyarakat* 5, no. 2 (2021): 1359-1364.

²¹ I Gusti Agung Ayu Kharisma Maharani Raijaya, and I Ketut Sudibia, "Faktor-Faktor Sosial Ekonomi Penyebab Terjadinya Kasus Pelecehan Seksual Pada Anak di Kota Denpasar", *Piramida* 13, no. 1 (2017): 9-17.

were still in senior high school. Some had no education at all.

In addition, formal and informal education must be supported by religious education to ensure a balanced mind, morals, and conscience. Religion is a spiritual need, a need of the mind, and a need for instinct and for the peace of the heart. One factor contributing to a person's moral decline is a lack of religious education.²² Many perpetrators of sexual violence in Jambi City are people who are close to the victim, either physically close, such as neighbors, or emotionally close, such as stepfather, biological father, uncle, older brother, or grandfather.

3. Technology Factor

The misuse of technology for the wrong things has resulted in a high number of cases of rape of minors. As revealed by Nuraini Silalahi, Staff of UPTD PPA Jambi City, through sophisticated technology, a person can easily access pornographic content. This then triggers an increase in the lust of the perpetrator, who will then vent it on someone vulnerable to being victimized. Minors are vulnerable to becoming victims because of their innocence and ignorance of sexual crimes. They are very trusting and even tend to be afraid to reject bad things, especially from those closest to them. Of course, because of their limited mind and knowledge.²³ The variety of online game applications also affects the increase in new modes of sexual crimes. Parida, Head of the Women's Protection Division (DP3A), said that several sexual crimes in Sarolangun District began with introductions through mobile legend, a type of online game. This online introduction then continues with

meetings in the real world, and leads to sexual abuse and rape.²⁴

In some cases, information technology has also played an essential role in the disclosure of many instances of sexual violence. The era of information openness has made news about various sexual crimes against women and children more widespread. More and more individuals, whether in the family, school, or office, are becoming aware of the dangers of sexual crimes against children. In addition, the attention and concern of relevant officials have led to more places to report and ask for protection in the event of a sexual crime. At one point, the rise of sexual crimes shows that there are many such incidents in society. On another point, it shows an increase in community awareness, making them more willing to report incidents involving family members or crimes they know about.

Many cases of sexual crimes in Jambi were solved because they went viral on social media. This is due to "the power of netizens," who intervened to uphold justice on Earth. Using Noelle-Neumann's spiral of silence approach²⁵, the impact of information dissemination through mass media is explained. In this theory, the mass media are described as having the power to influence public opinion. Others' expectations and beliefs strongly influence an individual's personal opinion. People tend to like to discuss topics that are supported by the majority.²⁶ Media influence operates on the premise that easy access enables news to be presented with high frequency, duration, and intensity. Each medium also presents

²² Syafi'ah, and Muh. Said HM, "Kekuatan Pendidikan Islam Mencegah Kenakalan Remaja", *JPPi (Jurnal Penelitian Pendidikan Indonesia)* 9, no. 2 (2023): 549-557.

²³ Interview, Nuraini Silalahi, Staff of UPTD PPA Jambi City on September 27, 2023.

²⁴ Interview, Parida, Head of the Women's Protection Division (DP3A) on October 5, 2023.

²⁵ E. Noelle Neumann, *The Spiral of Silence: Public Opinion-Our Social Skin*, (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1984).

²⁶ Richard West, and Lynn Turner, *Introducing Communication Theory: Analysis and Application*, (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2008).

content that is more or less similar to other media. Mainstream media, both print, electronic, and online, are competing to present the latest cases of this murder case. No exception: social media such as Twitter, YouTube, and TikTok, which are popular among Indonesian netizens, especially Generation Z, are not only platforms for following the case but also for engaging in related discussions. They are not only interested in following the case but also commenting. The dominant view, as highlighted by the media, is gaining strength and is then discussed publicly. Meanwhile, dissenting views became increasingly muted, and minority groups became increasingly unwilling to express their opinions, resulting in a spiral of silence. Rather than remaining isolated, people then conform to public opinion. Given the ubiquity, cumulative nature, and consonance of the media, it can amplify an issue, thereby building a majority opinion or freeing the silenced to speak up.

Rosa Rosilawaty, Head of UPTD PPA Jambi City, revealed that the media plays a vital role in publicizing a sexual crime case. Sometimes the press first finds out about a case of sexual crimes against children in a place. The news has spread in the community before reaching the relevant parties. A problem that is certainly detrimental to the victim. Many media outlets go directly to the victim's home, thereby making the victim's identity and privacy public. This can endanger victims of sexual crimes when their cases go viral on social media. Starting from threatened personal safety, and leaked personal information, to a series of negative questions and stigma. If this happens to the victim, then she will experience the same thing as the saying "sudah jatuh, tertimpa tangga".²⁷

The case's virality causes shame for the victim and family. In this context, viral cases of sexual violence should pressure policymakers to take decisive steps with good results. Sexual violence cases are like an iceberg phenomenon. The number of sexual violence cases that occur is higher than the reported cases. For a long time, there have been many cases of sexual crimes in the community, but people have not dared to report them for various reasons. But nowadays, with greater protection for children and women, people are more aware of what to do. People dare to speak up and ask for help in resolving cases of sexual violence.

Efforts to Overcome Child Sexual Abuse

The rise of cases of sexual violence against children has become the focus of attention from the Jambi City Government. Various efforts have been carried out massively and comprehensively, among others:

1. Socialization of the Dangers of Sexual Violence Against Children

Children are the mandate and gift of God Almighty. Children are buds, potential, and the next generation of the nation's struggle. Children play a vital role in ensuring the continued existence of the country and state in the future. Therefore, every child has the right to survive, grow, and develop properly, and is entitled to protection from violence and discrimination. To provide legal protection for children, the Government of Indonesia enacted Law No. 23 of 2002 on Child Protection. There are 4 (four) basic principles which are then formulated in full in Article 2 of Law No. 23 of 2002, namely the principle of eliminating discrimination, safeguarding the interests of children, the right to life, survival and development, and respect for children's opinions.

²⁷ Interview, Rosa Rosilawaty, Head of UPTD PPA Jambi City on September 15, 2023.

The principle of respect for children's views is also explicitly adopted as a fundamental principle, alongside Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution, as the foundation for child protection. Law No. 23/2002 regulates children's rights and obligations (Articles 4-19). The affirmation of children's rights in this regulation is part of the principle of legalization of human rights. The Child Protection Law prioritizes children's rights, as articulated in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. These rights include the right to life, the right to growth and development, education, protection from exploitation, participation in community life, and the right to protection from all forms of violence, including sexual violence.

Socialization of various regulations related to sexual violence against children is intensively carried out by related agencies in Jambi City. The socialization and legal counseling activities aim to make people know and understand the meaning of sexual violence against children, the impact and legal sanctions, and how the government's efforts are related to protecting children from sexual violence. In addition to involving the school environment, this legal socialization and counseling activity also maximizes the PKK mobilizing team, even involving the khotibs who preach in mosques.

2. Sexual Health Education in Schools

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), there are several ways to prevent sexual violence, including through a developmental approach. The developmental approach is to prevent sexual violence by instilling sexual education in children from an early age. This education will increase children's knowledge about gender, the dangers of sexual harassment, and the risks of sexual violence. In addition, children also gain knowledge about how to avoid sexual violence, knowledge about

boundaries for private body parts, and knowledge about the limits of sexual activities carried out during the child's developmental period.

Sexual education needs to be given as early as possible to children regarding sexual behavior to deal with things that will happen in the future as children get older. This aims to shape the character and behavior patterns of children to be able to avoid actions that are at risk of sexual harassment or deviant sexual behavior. Sexual education will certainly provide provisions and make children aware of the importance of maintaining their health, welfare, and dignity. This way of instilling self-protection will also be beneficial in developing good social and sexual relationships for children. Moreover, in today's digital era and amid technological development, children can quickly and easily access media through various applications without parental or educator guidance. Without realizing that most of these applications contain objectionable advertisements visible to children when they open the application. Therefore, the importance of sex education for children is given as early as possible, especially about knowledge and learning about the meaning of sexuality.

Educational activities on sexual and reproductive health, and efforts to increase children's knowledge, have been implemented in schools in Jambi City. To tackle the rise of sexual crimes against children, the Jambi City government has also established a Regional Children's Forum (FAD) in each sub-district. This forum has functions and tasks, namely, those of a reporter and a pioneer. The duty of a reporter is to provide a space for forum members to report if they see or know of cases related to sexual violence against children around their neighborhood. Meanwhile, the task as a pioneer provides a breakthrough for forum members to be able

to become officers who offer counseling and knowledge for the community, so as not to become victims or perpetrators of sexual violence against children.

3. Legal Protection Efforts for Children in Conflict with the Law

The Child Protection Act and the Convention on the Rights of the Child state that every child is entitled to legal protection. The importance of protecting children is based on several reasons, namely: First, children are the nation's next generation, who will continue the nation's ideals. Therefore, children must be protected by law and the state. *Second*, children are a gift from God Almighty and also have human dignity. *Third*, children are citizens with rights and obligations that must also be protected by law and the state.

Every victim of sexual crime who reports to the Women's and Children's Empowerment Office in the district or city will be given the right to receive protection in the form of:

a. Free Physical Examination and Treatment

Victims of sexual crimes will be asked to undergo a *visum et repertum*. Victims with illnesses will be referred to a physician or medical examiner for treatment.

b. Psychological Examination

Every child who experiences sexual violence is vulnerable to psychological trauma. This psychological trauma can even last a lifetime. This is where the importance of psychological assistance becomes evident, enabling the child to redirect harmful thoughts and forget the trauma. The psychologist will encourage the child to remain optimistic about their future and continue their schooling.

c. Legal Assistance

Children who are victims of sexual crimes will be advised to report to the nearest police station. Not all victims have the courage to

report and provide information. Most victims of sexual crimes will feel frightened and find it challenging to communicate with others. This is where the importance of assistance from the relevant agencies in strengthening the victim's or their family's mental capacity to follow the process becomes evident. This assistance aims to improve the child's mental health so that they can undergo the procedures to resolve their case. Advocates from the Regional Integrated Service Unit (UPTD) PPA will provide legal consultation or legal assistance until the case is completed. Legal justice efforts must be undertaken to ensure that perpetrators face appropriate deterrence for their actions and that no further victims are created.

d. Victims Can Stay in A Safe House

A safe house is a temporary residence, which is used to protect victims of domestic violence or a shelter for minors who are victims of sexual crimes. Only houses that meet the standards set by the central government may be designated as safe houses. The location of this safe house is confidential; only the victim and the relevant Dinas officers know the address. The goal is for the victim to feel safe and comfortable while the case is being processed.

e. Privacy of the Victim's Identity

Being a victim of a sexual crime is not something to be proud of. Especially in Jambi society, which remains characterized by a culture of shame and the upholding of family honor. Viral news will not only bring down the victim's mentality but also her family.

Obstacles to Overcoming Child Sexual Abuse

In the effort to overcome sexual violence against children, several obstacles were found, including:

1. Internal Constraints

a. Parents cover up cases out of shame.

Fear of shame makes many victims of sexual violence unwilling to report. Victims and their families are afraid of receiving negative stigma from the surrounding community. Children who are victims of sexual violence must become victims of social bullying in their environment. This is called secondary victimization or multiple victimization. Both terms can simply be interpreted as suffering and losses experienced by victims after previously being victims of primary crimes. This suffering can take the form of victim blaming, which can lead to psychological distress and trigger more profound trauma for the victim.²⁸ People who can further victimize victims are usually family members, the surrounding community, social service providers, and law enforcement.

The people of Jambi are known for being highly sensitive to shame. The disgrace that befalls an individual can make his family also feel ashamed. Because of this, the previous parents were cautious not to engage in conduct that would embarrass themselves or their families, including by protecting their children and grandchildren. Rosa Rosilawaty recounted a case that had occurred in Jambi City. From the initial 30 victims at the time of initial reporting, at the police investigation stage, there were only 16 people left. In fact, by the trial stage, only three victims were present. This happened because the families felt ashamed that their children were victims, so they did not want to follow the process of resolving the case.²⁹

The victim feels the psychological burden of shame. The victim is often humiliated and

bullied at school. As a result, the victim prefers to change schools or quit school. A truly ironic thing also happened when the school dismissed and refused to allow the victim to continue studying at the school. The news coverage led the school to believe that its good name had been damaged. The victim eventually went to another school or continued her education through a package A school (equivalent to elementary school).

b. Economic factors and emotional attachment of husband and wife or family

In some cases where the perpetrator is the biological father or stepfather, there is a dilemma for the mother as well as the wife of the perpetrator. Economic and emotional dependence make the mother prefer not to divorce the father. The victim is forced to continue living with the perpetrator. This, of course, causes deep trauma for the victim. In some cases, the victim's mother then divorced from the perpetrator, resulting in the abandonment of family members because there was no economic income or source of income. There were even instances where the perpetrator was a stepfather. The mother then withdrew the report and preferred to reconcile. When the case is resolved by the Office of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection, the settlement is free of charge. However, at trial, the perpetrator must pay a sum of money to withdraw the report. Ironically, the mother of the victim was willing to pay the peace fee for her husband, who was the perpetrator. According to Osbon Tambunan of the Jambi City Integrated Service Center for the Protection of Women and Children, the examining members must convene to assess the seriousness of the victim's case. So that cases that have reached the investigation stage are not revoked by the victim.³⁰

²⁸ Mahrus Ali, and Rena Yulia, "Findings the Factors and Proposing the Solution for Preventing Secondary Victimization", *Academic Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies* 12, no. 5 (2023): 262-273. <https://doi.org/10.36941/ajis-2023-0150>

²⁹ Interview, Rosa Rosilawaty, Head of UPTD PPA Jambi City on September 15, 2023.

³⁰ Interview, Osbon Tambunan, The Jambi City Integrated Service Center for the Protection of Women and Children on October 12, 2023.

2. External Constraints

An external factor that is quite difficult to handle in cases of sexual violence is that case resolution is still often directed at the mediation process. Article 23 of Law Number 12 of 2022 on Criminal Acts of Sexual Violence states that "cases of criminal acts of sexual violence cannot be resolved outside the judicial process, except against child perpetrators." This article emphasizes that cases of serious sexual violence, such as rape, cannot be settled through peace. This means that the case must be resolved through a trial in court. Conversely, minor cases such as harassment that does not reach rape can still be resolved through mediation facilitated by the Jambi City Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Office.

Rosa Rosilawaty, Chairperson of the Jambi City Women and Child Protection, revealed that for some mild cases, such as sexual harassment and not up to the act of rape, it is sought to be resolved amicably, especially if the perpetrator and victim are still minors.³¹ This is done to ensure that the resolution of the case is more effective than litigating in court, which can take a long time to reach a judge's decision. The court process can consume a lot of time, energy, and, of course, a lot of money when the victim comes from a low-income family. This is compounded by the possibility that the victim will withdraw and drop the case while it is still being heard. Nuraini Silalahi, a staff member of the Jambi City UPTD for the Protection of Women and Children, added that problems often arise during the mediation process, ranging from disagreements over the mediation schedule to the absence of a fair solution. Busyness or other factors make case resolution ineffective and inefficient. Perpetrators are sometimes unwilling to accept the demands and wishes of the victim

as a form of punishment. For example, disagreements over compensation and other forms of settlement. Even if the mediation process has resulted in an agreement, the peace agreement may be violated or not fully implemented by either party.³²

So far, peace with criminals is a troubling phenomenon. Peace will not have a deterrent effect on perpetrators of sexual violence, especially if the perpetrator is a wealthy person. It is feared that the perpetrator may repeat his mistake next time and so on. This will undoubtedly set a bad example for law enforcement against the next perpetrator of sexual violence. At the very least, if the perpetrator breaches the mediation agreement, the case should proceed to trial. The aim is to deter the perpetrator from repeating the act and to set an example for the community to refrain from committing it.

Conclusion

This study concludes that prevention efforts in Jambi City have had some success, but there remain challenges that must be addressed. Prevention programs have proven to be effective in reducing the rate of sexual violence against children, especially when involving collaboration between the government, non-government agencies, and active community participation. However, there are still risk factors that need further attention, and evaluation of specific programs and increased public awareness are key to improving effectiveness in protecting children from the threat of sexual violence. Future recommendations include expanding public education and awareness programs, enhancing interagency cooperation, and strengthening ongoing program monitoring and evaluation. Accurate data collection and good tracking will provide a strong basis for continuous

³¹ Interview, Rosa Rosilawaty, Head of UPTD PPA Jambi City on October 15, 2023.

³² Interview, Nuraini Silalahi, Staff of UPTD PPA Jambi City on October 15, 2023.

improvement in prevention efforts. This conclusion underscores the importance of a shared commitment from all parties involved, both government and community, to create a safer environment and protect children from the threat of sexual violence in Jambi City.

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