

A Qualitative Study of Prevention and Intervention Policies on Sexual Violence Against Children in Cirebon City

Teguh Widodo^{1,*}, Mario Ekoriano², Afifah², Frida Kurniawati²

¹ Researcher at National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)

² Engineers at Directorate of Human Development, Population & Culture BRIN

*Correspondence e-mail: tegu030@brin.go.id

ABSTRACT

This study is motivated by an increasing trend of child sexual abuse recently in Indonesia. The initial assumption is that the rampant incidence of sexual abuse is due to the non-optimality of the eight family functions. This study aims to analyze how child sexual abuse prevention and intervention policies are carried out by local governments. This research is qualitative, taking samples regionally in Cirebon City. Data were collected through social worker reports when a case response occurs. Confirmation was carried out to check the truth of the incident and observe the condition of the victim and his family. The analysis was carried out by looking at the case records carried out by social workers. Focus group discussion to obtain information on various programs and activities carried out by the local government related to the efforts of preventing sexual child abuse. The results showed that intervention efforts have been carried out by both local government and community elements. There were overlaps in their duties and functions. The causes of sexual child abuse were carried out by people who were the closest to the victim's relative. The first sexual experience and so on will have an impact on the possibility of a further sensation of the next sexual stimulation. Most of the victims have only a single parent either a mother or father. They were alive or died in divorce so they lose the figure of his/her parents' profile as a protective person. This study recommends that sexual violence prevention policies should be integrated into the relief process. Prevention of sexual violence against children prioritizes the improvement of eight family functions by emphasizing family resilience.

Keywords: *child sexual abuse, family resilience, child sexual violence, parenting*

INTRODUCTION

Globally, one in ten women under the age of 20 has been victim of sexual violence (UNICEF, 2014). A study conducted in seven countries during 2007-2013 by the CDC and UNICEF found that more than 25% of women in 5 countries and more than 11% of men in 4 countries had experienced sexual violence in their childhood (Sumner et al., 2015). Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (PPPA). It also noted an increase in the number of child victims of sexual violence reported through the Online Information System for the Protection of Women and Children (PPA Symphony), namely 6,454 children in 2019, 6,980 children in 2020, and as many as 8,730 children in 2021 [<https://www.cnnindonesia.com/national/20211102142206-20-715544/kekerasan-terhadap-anak-meningkat-selamapandemi>].

In January 2022, the Ministry of PPPA recorded as many as 797 children being victims of sexual violence [Fauzia, 2022 <https://nasional.kompas.com/read/2022/03/04/17062911/kemenpppa-797-anak-jadi-korban-kekerasan-seksual-sepanjang-januari-2022?page=all>]. The increase of victims reported from year to year can also be interpreted as an effect of increasing public awareness of sexual violence and concern for reporting. However, the figure still does not necessarily illustrate reality because it only includes reported sexual violence.

Sexual violence against children is mostly carried out by people who are familiar with and close to the victim (Solehati et al., 2021), even family members themselves. They have the opportunity and access to the child that allows them to commit this violence. Many studies show that a child's risk of exposure to violence and exploitation may increase due to family dysfunctions, such as parental divorce, poor relationships with parents, domestic violence, alcoholic parents, and neglect (Guerra et al., 2018). Sexual violence against children is a violation of the rights of the child under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (KHA). Indonesia itself ratified the KHA in 1990, then adapted it into the Law on Child Protection. However, the implementation of law enforcement, prevention, and handling systems still needs to be improved.

Sexual violence against children is a form of physical or emotional pain/act, sexual abuse, trafficking, neglecting, commercial exploitation including commercial sexual exploitation, which results in real or potential injury to child health, survival, growth, and development, which is carried out in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power (Noviana, 2015), (Lewoleba and Fahrozi, 2020). According to Gelles (1990) violence against children is a deliberate act that causes harm to children (both physically and emotionally). Forms of violence against children can be classified into physical, psychological, sexual, and social violence. Sexual violence against children according to End Child Prostitution in Asia Tourism (ECPAT) International is a relationship or interaction between a child and an older person or adult such as a foreigner, conceived sibling, or parent where the child is used as an object of the fulfillment of the perpetrator's sexual.

According to Hurairah (2012), some factors causing sexual violence include (1) internal factors such as biological, moral, and psychiatric impulses and (2) external factors such as mass media, economic and socio-cultural. All of them can be empirically observed by the perpetrator and the victim so that it will be clear what treatment will be done. With these causal factors, many institutions take intervention initiatives both curative and preventive. These activities often overlap so there appears to be ineffectiveness and inefficiency of programs and budgets.

Studies conducted on sexual violence prevention and handling institutions in Cirebon City can identify at least 10 institutions handling cases of sexual violence against children, both preventive and curative. In many points of view, it is indeed in the end able to uncover many cases of sexual violence against children which have always seemed to be an iceberg phenomenon. This is indicated by the number of cases that come to light from year to year (see figure 1). In many ways, it indicates two counterproductive empirical experiences. First, it shows that previously unsolved cases are starting to appear and be reported. Second, it shows that many institutions handling cases of sexual violence are not able to reduce the sexual violence against the children.

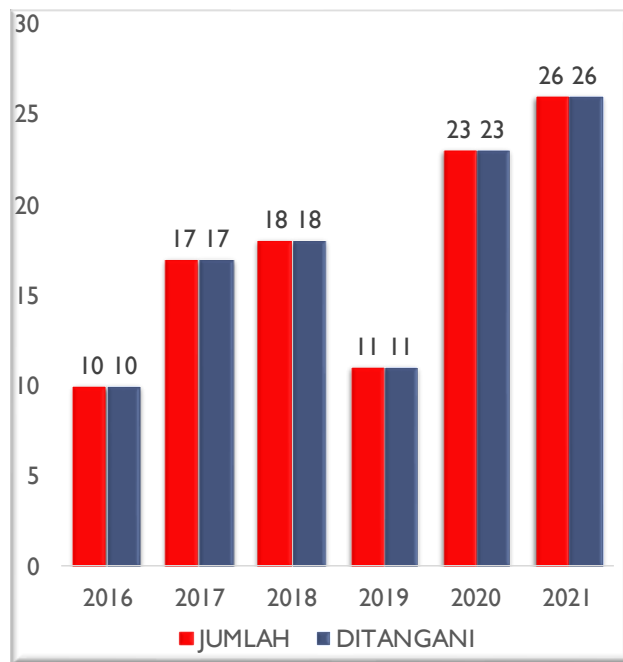


Figure 1 Cases of Sexual Violence against the Children 2016-2021

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The existence of institutions that deal with child sexual violence

In Cirebon City, the initial search results showed that there were around 10 institutions that deal with sexual violence against children, as follows:

1. Motekar, which stands for Family Resilience Motivator. It is a program from West Java Province and it has a range of work control up to the village level. Those who work here are Community Empowerment Cadres (KPM) from local communities who have the knowledge, willingness, and ability to facilitate empowerment activities for underprivileged families and women to improve their quality of life for the better. The purpose of the motekar is to combine family development and women's empowerment oriented towards improving the quality of life of birth and mental well-being by involving the participation of the community and related institutions at all levels. The scope of his work after being traced also helped promote the prevention of sexual violence against children (because the expected figure of motekar is one of them is to care about social problems).
2. Domestic Violence Prevention Task Force (PKDRT). This institution is formed by the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (KPPPA). The purpose of establishing the task force is none other than to facilitate services to victims, especially in assisting the Community Complaints Section of the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection and the Integrated Service Center for Women and Children Empowerment in providing follow-up services to women and children experiencing problems.
3. The Wadul Bae is a non-governmental organization (NGO). It stands for (warga peduli anak dan emboke (the citizen care to children and their mothers). It is an institution formed by the community as a form of its concern in handling violence against children and women. It tried to develop an integrated system for handling violence against children and women, Develop a reporting system for the community /Cadres/Pioneers. This institution also has the concept of integrated handling of violence against children and women.
4. Community-Based Integrated Child Protection (PATBM). It is a movement of community networks or groups working in a coordinated manner to achieve child protection goals. PATBM is a community initiative that is spearhead to carry out prevention efforts by building public awareness so that there is a change in understanding, attitudes, and behaviors that proo prtect children. Understanding the nomenclature, it seems that this institution is almost similar to motekar and NGO Wadul Bae. The goal of PATBM is to prevent and respond to violence against children.

5. The Integrated Service Center (PPT) of Gunung Jati Regional Hospital was established by doctors, psychiatrists, psychologists, and other paramedics who have concerns about violence against children. Services that fully empower women and children, victims of violence, through medical, psychosocial, and legal treatment based on cross-disciplinary work mechanisms and institutions, both from the government and community that are built together openly and affordably by the community.
6. Integrated Services for Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (P2TP2A). This institution is not much different from the PPT of Cirebon City Hospital.
7. The Prosperous Family Service Center is an institution formed by Family Planning Board. This institution is a forum for integrated activities that are easily accessible to the community, with activities and/or a series of family service activities carried out in the form of communication, information and education, consultation and counseling, coaching and referral. The various activities carried out are also similar to Motekar, promotive, but if there is an incident of violence against children, this institution also carries out curative actions.
8. The Center of Adolescent Information and Counseling (PIK-R) is also an extension of the Family Planning Board. It is promotive and aimed at adolescents (10-24 years). Although the target is teenagers, in adolescence there is an age range that is included in the category of children, namely 10-17 years. That is, the target of promotive is also aimed at those who are still children. (9) Adolescent Family Development (BKR) is also formed by Family Planning Board. It aims to the families which have adolescent children. This institution is also promotive, providing a lot of counseling on adolescent reproductive health and sex education (Hidayanto & Millah, 2015). This platform from BKR aims to increase the maturation of the mating age of marriage. (10) Peer Educator, is an extension of BKR also formed by BKKBN. The target is teenagers, promotive by empowering the teenagers themselves then used as a medium to receive vents from their peers.

Distribution of Sexual Violence Against Women and Children from 2013 to 2021 in Cirebon City

Cirebon City has 5 sub-districts including Kejaksan, Lemahwungkuk, Pekalipan, Harjamukti, and Kesambi sub-districts. Geographically, it is bordered by Cirebon Regency and the Java Sea. The entire Cirebon City is surrounded by Cirebon Regency, and it is an integral part of Cirebon culture. The based-on BPS data 2021, its population is approximately 336,860 people. The highest sexual violence both children and women occurred in Harjamukti from 2013 to 2021 (see Figures 2 and 3). It has occurred because Harjamukti is the largest district in Cirebon compared to the others.

Explain the findings by presenting the data in a complete, accurate, systematic, and logical manner. Data visualization (tables, matrices, figures, or diagrams) must be presented and discussed in a clear and concise manner. In discussion, it is necessary to relate and explain the findings obtained with the concepts used/explained in the introduction and/or hypotheses. The discussion should include comparisons with previous articles related to the topic. The discussion also needs to show both theoretical and application implications.

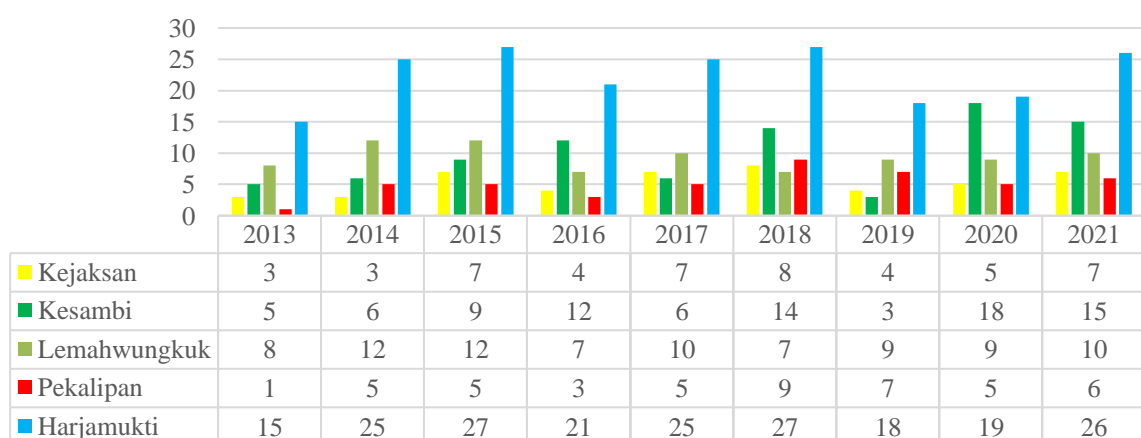
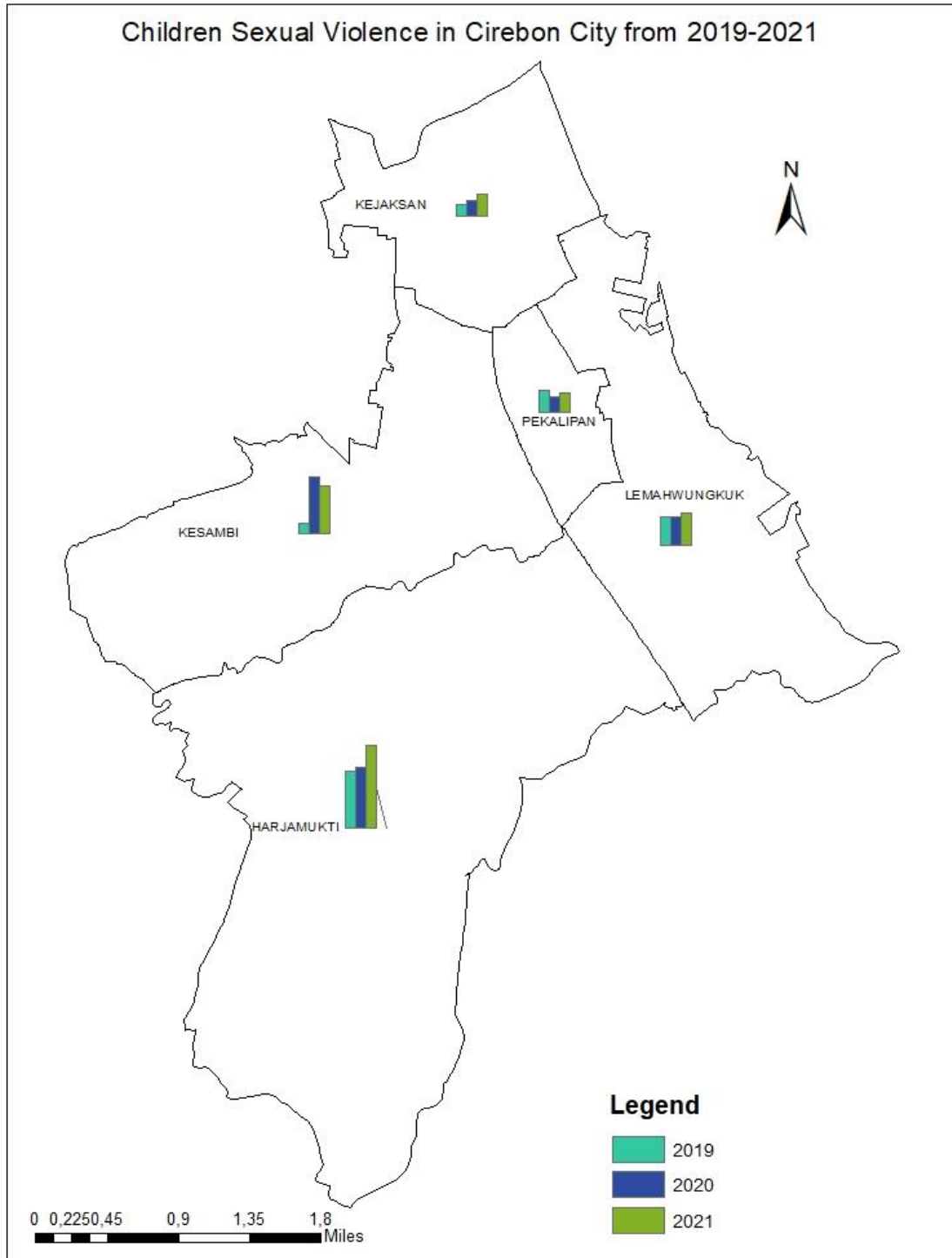


Figure 2 The Series Data of Sexual Child Abuse occurred in Cirebon City from 2013 to 2021



Institutional Analysis

The ten institutions that exist today, they can be identified that some activities overlap each other, although the activities are different budgets, the actors of promotive activities are often the same. The targets are also often the same. Suppose a PPT institution has similarities with P2TP2A, and is promotive and curative. Motekar with PPKS is also promotive, the perpetrators are community cadres and community empowerment. The difference is that “Motekar” is the response of the West Java Provincial government to the increase in domestic violence cases, while PPKS is formed by Family Planning Board What is different is the accountability, where Motekar gets activity funds from the West Java Provincial Government, while PPKS activities are sourced from the state budget.

Some of these institutions actually can be integrated without going through conflicts of interest because the culprits are mostly the same. Likewise, institutions and activities based on the state budget should also be coordinated before it is launched so as not to overlap activities. Although under the pretext of providing mutual support and strengthening and different budget sources, it is necessary to think about the effectiveness and efficiency of programs so that they do not overlap and are more integrated activities.

The institutions for the prevention and mitigation of sexual violence in Indonesia are quite numerous, diverse, and overlapping programs and activities. There are still institutions such as the PKK, and Dharma Wanita which are often chaired by the wives of state officials also take part in promotive activities to prevent an increase in cases of sexual violence against children, but it can also be said that it has not functioned optimally. Even though this institution is considered the oldest compared to other institutions, even at the village level it is a community institutional body and at the base, the level is a Non-Governmental Group (KSM) - there is. To carry out activities, government agencies and NGOs are bound to the same institutional structure even though they are in areas that have different potentials, characteristics, and environments, so the patterns and strategies carried out tend to vary greatly because they are tied to the nomenclature of the government agency that established them.

The sexual exploitation of children is the most heinous act of humanity and deeply hurts feelings. The problem of child sexual exploitation is not only a medical issue, but also concerns many aspects, including religion, psychology, and law. The following are the services needed by children who gotten sexual exploitation:

1. Rapid treatment, including physical, psychological, and social treatment and/or rehabilitation, as well as the prevention of diseases and other health disorders;
2. Psychosocial accompaniment at the time of treatment until recovery;
3. Provision of social assistance for children who come from underprivileged families;
4. Provision of protection and assistance in every judicial process.

The complexity of the occurred impact, it is necessary to develop a comprehensive approach and collaboration of work between agencies and partnerships in handling cases of sexual exploitation of children including prevention, intervention, and rehabilitation efforts. The important thing in preventing child sexual exploitation, is the role of the family in shaping the personal resilience of a child; to give understanding to the child to use the internet positively, effectively, and safely, so that they protect themselves from exploitation on social media.

CONCLUSION

Presenting conclusions that are able to answer the research objectives and show novelty or conceptualization of ideas. Don't write your conclusions in bullet points.

Policy recommendations proposed in this paper are also to support the reformation program from the Ministry of apparatus empowerment. The following efforts should also be made:

1. Integrating institutions for handling sexual violence against children specifically for institutions that have the same main task of functioning towards handling sexual violence both preventive and curative.
2. Integrating activities that have the same goal both the object and the subject.
3. Policies that prevent sexual violence against children will be more effective if their programs are directed at increasing family resilience and community empowerment through optimizing PKK institutions that reach the scope of villages.
4. Parenting knowledge for each parent about how to take care of their children in case to avoid sexual violence

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