

Community Service for Legal and Legal Awareness Prevention of Violence Against Children in Bone District

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Abstract. *The government stipulates Law Number 35 of 2014, which amends Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection. This legislation explicitly delineates that children represent the successors of the nation's generation and must be afforded protection from all forms of violence and discrimination. The established regulations serve as an appropriate legal foundation for the provision of protection for children. This counseling activity is conducted to educate the community as a proactive measure to prevent and address crimes or criminal acts. The proliferation of counseling initiatives undertaken by law enforcement agencies and local governmental bodies is anticipated to enhance public comprehension regarding the importance of preventive measures against criminal activities, particularly those involving violence directed at children. This activity is conducted in three stages, specifically: Focus Group Discussion (FGD), the dissemination of child violence law policies, and the establishment of a collective commitment to encourage the community to adhere to the law. The findings of the community service indicated that insufficient parental supervision and a lack of awareness among children regarding problem-solving through deliberation have contributed to the emergence of numerous groups of children. In the interim, initiatives undertaken in partnership with law enforcement to address crimes against children in Bone Regency encompass: guidance, peace efforts, counseling, and patrols. Educating families regarding the significance of supervising their children is essential to prevent their offspring from becoming either victims or perpetrators of criminal activities. Delivering continuous legal education in light of the significant role that society plays in the prevention of crime, particularly violent offenses against children.*

Keywords: *Crime, Children, Violence, Criminology*

Received: October 27, 2024

Received in Revised: November 19, 2024

Accepted: December 28, 2024

INTRODUCTION

Children represent both a mandate and a gift from God Almighty, possessing inherent dignity and status as complete human beings. Children, frequently perceived as vulnerable beings, often fall prey to violent crimes. Included within this category are acts of rape, abuse, and murder (Finkelhor, 2008; Lewoleba & Fahrozi, 2020; Sumera, 2013; Anjari, 2014; Setiani, 2016; Sumaraw, 2017; Suhra, 2019; Finkelhor & Hashima, 2001).

The presence of children, as the younger generation poised to uphold the noble ideals of the nation, serves as a foundation for future leadership and as successors to the endeavors of preceding generations. It is imperative that they are afforded the broadest possible opportunities

for natural growth and development across spiritual, physical, and social dimensions (Zohar & Marshall, 2004). The future of the nation is contingent upon the quality of the children in the present day.

Crime constitutes a manifestation of behavioral deviation that invariably contravenes the established norms of societal conduct. Criminologists have consistently conducted investigations into the issue of crime. This suggests that the issue of crime constitutes a fundamental challenge inherent to human existence (Agnew, 2011; Brown & Geis, 2015; Hollin, 2013; de Carvalho & Matos, 2021).

The prevalence of violent crimes targeting children has escalated to a degree that is regarded as serious by both law enforcement agencies and the community at large (James, 2023; Sarrah & Hanura, 2022). This phenomenon can be comprehended as the issue of crime inherently affects the lives of individuals within society. Law enforcement agencies, particularly the Indonesian National Police (POLRI), have implemented measures and policies aimed at preventing and addressing these crimes. Concurrently, academic communities focused on issues of criminality have engaged in discussions that merit significant recognition for their contributions. Nonetheless, there remains a necessity for conceptual inputs that can establish a systematic framework for prevention and mitigation that can be depended upon.

Stages of Service

This community service activity was carried out in several stages, namely:

Stage I: Conducting a Focus Group Discussion with community leaders in Bone Regency, by discussing related matters: 1) Behavior of adolescents and prevention of violence against children; 2) Coordinating various sectors within the region or village in determining the problems that occur; 3) Synchronizing data and areas related to areas prone to violence against children; 4) Implementing legal counseling and Legal Awareness in collaboration with the police



Figure 1. FGD with Community Leaders

STAGE II. Facilitating the collaboration among diverse sectors within the region or village to identify the issues that arise.

In the interim, initiatives undertaken by the Security Forces to address crimes against children in Bone Regency encompass: guidance, peace efforts, counseling, and patrols. Educating families regarding the significance of supervising their children is essential to prevent them from becoming either victims or perpetrators of criminal activities. It is essential to offer ongoing legal education, acknowledging the significant role that society plays in the prevention of crime, particularly in relation to violent offenses against children. This observation aligns with the data

regarding the incidence of crimes against children, specifically rape and molestation, which have shown a consistent increase over the years.



Figure 2. Legal counseling and kadarkum

STAGE III. Making Joint Agreements and Commitments to Prevent Violence Against Children

Protection for witnesses and victims must be provided if the legal process is to run properly and justice is upheld. It can be seen that the facts show that many criminal cases and human rights violations are not revealed and not resolved due to physical or psychological threats or attempts to criminalize witnesses and victims or their families which make the public afraid to give testimony to law enforcement. The target of protection provided by the Witness and Victim Protection Law, for victims is regulated in Article 5 that rights are given to witnesses and/or victims of criminal acts in certain cases in accordance with the decision of the Witness and Victim Protection Agency.

The forms of protection provided to victims based on the Witness and Victim Protection Law are: Obtaining protection for the security of their person, family, and property, and being free from threats related to testimony that will be, is being or has been given, Providing information without pressure. Obtaining a new identity, Obtaining a new place of residence, Obtaining reimbursement of transportation costs according to the needs of obtaining legal advice, and/or Obtaining temporary living expenses until the protection period ends. Based on the text of Article 5 of Law No. 13 of 2006, it shows that based on the law, witness protection has been provided comprehensively and with this protection, witnesses can give their testimony freely without any fear or anxiety about other parties who might harm them.



Figure 3. Together with the Community and Students conducting Village Discussion

CONCLUSION

Based on the discussion conducted by the author, it can be concluded that: 1) Factors contributing to violence against children in Bone Regency include insufficient parental supervision, a lack of awareness among children regarding the resolution of conflicts through deliberation, and the formation of groups among children; 2) The initiatives undertaken by law enforcement to address violent crimes against children in Bone Regency encompass guidance, peaceful efforts, counseling, and patrols; 3) The legal protections afforded by the Bone Police UPPA encompass the following: the confidentiality of victim identity, the provision of counseling outside the legal framework, the provision of medical assistance and psychosocial rehabilitation support, the granting of freedom to victims to select companions, and the execution of investigative efforts.

SUGGESTIONS

Based on the conclusions above, the author suggests that: 1. Provide education to families about the importance of supervising children so that their children do not become victims of crime or perpetrators of crime; 2) Provide ongoing legal counseling considering the importance of the role of the community in preventing crime, especially violent crimes against children.

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