

LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND CHALLENGES IN PROVIDING SERVICES FOR CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE VICTIMS IN RIAU ISLANDS PROVINCE

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ABSTRACT

Child sexual abuse is a serious phenomenon that continues to increase in the Riau Islands Province. To address this problem, the government has formed the Regional Technical Implementation Unit for the Protection of Women and Children (UPTD PPA), tasked with providing protection and services to victims. This study aims to evaluate the extent to which UPTD PPA services are effective in handling cases of child sexual abuse, identifying obstacles, and formulating solutions to improve the quality of services.

In its implementation, this study used an empirical legal method through a qualitative approach and collected primary data through interviews and observations and secondary data from documents and statistical reports. The research findings revealed that UPTD PPA has attempted to provide legal, psychological, and social services to victims, but its effectiveness is hampered by a lack of trained staff, inadequate facilities, suboptimal cross-sectoral coordination, and low public awareness of the rights of child victims. In addition, social stigmatization and obstacles in providing legal evidence exacerbate victim trauma and hinder the recovery process.

This study emphasizes that increasing the capacity of companions, inter-agency coordination, public education, and accelerating the legal process are very important to optimize protection and services for child victims of sexual abuse. It is hoped that the implementation of these recommendations will increase the role of UPTD PPA in creating a safe environment and supporting victim recovery.

Keywords: *Children's Rights; Child; Sexual Abuse; Protection; Victim Services.*

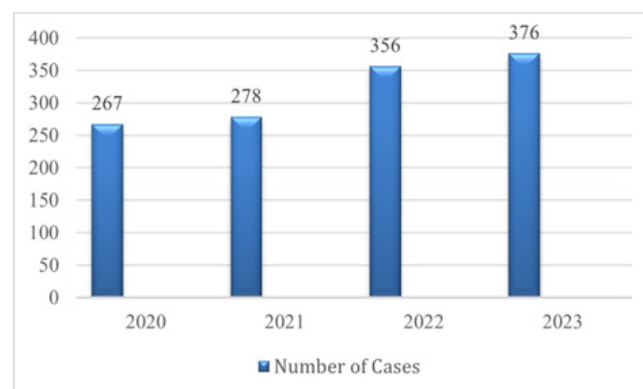
INTRODUCTION

As time goes by and technology and information develop, of course, there will be impacts that arise both positive and negative. Unfortunately, this progress has created a new phenomenon that endangers children as the nation's generation, one of which is sexual harassment and sexual abuse of children. Sexual abuse of children is a serious crime that continues to increase significantly, posing a threat and risk to children's lives, disrupting their comfort and development, and also disrupting children's sense of security and peace. Sexual abuse of children is the violence referred to by researchers in this study. The crime of sexual

abuse is when adults force children to engage in sexual activity, either with violence or without violence. This can happen anywhere, regardless of culture, ethnicity, or social environment. Based on Article 28B paragraph (2) of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia states that every child has the right to survival, growth, development, and the right to protection from violence and discrimination. Children play an important role in the future of the nation, and for that, the state ensures the right of every child to be able to live, develop, and be protected from violence or discrimination. Children must be protected from the negative impacts of rapid development, globalization in communication and information, scientific progress, and changes in parenting patterns and lifestyles have triggered profound social transformations in society, which have significantly impacted children's behavior. Children are a blessing to their parents. There is a consensus that they must be cared for and protected, and their talents and potential must be developed in line with the child's aspirations. Families and countries must focus on the growth and development of children.

However, children today face numerous risks, and many experience various forms of violence. Sexual harassment is one prominent example. The Riau Islands Province is among the regions in Indonesia that has placed particular emphasis on addressing the issue of sexual harassment, especially cases involving children. To address the high rate of sexual harassment in the Riau Islands Province, the government established the Regional Technical Implementation Unit for the Protection of Women and Children (UPTD PPA).

Table 1.2 Cases of Sexual Abuse Against Children in the Riau Islands



Source: Data from the Ministry of PPPA

Meanwhile, as indicated by the data above, cases of sexual harassment continue to rise each year, and a number of cases remain unresolved. This situation underscores the need for stronger coordination and synergy among relevant service-provider institutions in handling cases encountered in the field. A similar pattern is observed in various districts and cities, where many cases also require collaborative or joint interventions to ensure effective resolution.

According to a study conducted by Fitriana and Zulkipli, it was concluded that Child sexual abuse is often perpetrated by individuals close to the child, such as family members, friends, neighbors, or other adults in positions of authority, such as teachers or coaches. Child sexual abuse can result in severe psychological consequences for the child, such as trauma, depression, anxiety, and behavioral problems. Children who are victims of sexual abuse may

face challenges in forming good interpersonal relationships with others, which can affect their social, emotional, and cognitive development.

In research conducted by Ningsih and Henyati, It was found that sexual abuse of children in Karawang Regency was influenced by several factors, such as irregular sexual orientation in adults, lack of parental supervision of children, limited control over sources of information, and social and cultural factors that still considered early age sex education as taboo. It is expected to strengthen the participation of the police, UPTD PPA, Women's Empowerment Service, Social Service, and stakeholders.

This study aims to analyze services for victims of child sexual abuse in the Riau Islands Province based on existing facts and challenges and to examine the obstacles faced and steps that can be applied to improve the effectiveness of these services from a legal perspective. This study is expected to provide practical benefits for the government and related institutions in improving the quality of services for victims of child sexual abuse, as well as contributing academic contributions to the development of legal science, especially in the field of child protection.

To understand the phenomenon in depth, especially the effectiveness of UPTD PPA services in handling cases of child sexual abuse, qualitative data is used as an analysis technique in this study. This analysis begins with data collection through interviews, direct observation, and documentation, then the data is reduced to select relevant information. The reduced data is presented in narrative or table form to identify patterns and themes, which are then verified through data triangulation to ensure the validity of the findings. Observations are carried out by directly observing UPTD PPA service activities, including case handling procedures, interactions between officers with victims and other parties, and the availability of supporting facilities. Observations can be participatory, where researchers are involved in service activities, or non-participatory, where researchers only observe. Data is recorded systematically through field notes, checklists, and additional documentation such as photos or recordings (with permission). The results of the observations are then analyzed to find relevant behavioral patterns, work processes, or obstacles, thus providing a comprehensive picture of the effectiveness of services provided by UPTD PPA.

Previous research on legal protection and services for child sexual abuse victims in Indonesia has made important contributions to policy development in this area. One relevant study was conducted in Batam City, in an article entitled "Legal Analysis of Legal Protection for Victims of Sexual Abuse and Its Implementation in Batam City." This study showed that despite the existence of regulations supporting child protection, their implementation is hampered by a lack of facilities, trained human resources, and low public awareness. A similar finding was found in a study at Rumah Faye, Batam City, which assessed victim protection efforts, but found they were still limited by various systemic barriers, particularly in terms of accessibility and coordination between institutions.

Furthermore, a study conducted on the role of the UPTD PPA in Tanjungpinang City by Rina M. (2022) provides deeper insight into the challenges faced by this institution in providing services to child victims of sexual abuse. Findings indicate that although the UPTD PPA (Regional Persons and Children's Empowerment Unit) has provided comprehensive services, such as legal and psychological assistance, the main obstacles remain related to the lack of supporting facilities and suboptimal coordination between various relevant agencies. This suggests that despite existing regulations, the effectiveness of their implementation still requires greater attention.

A more specific study in Pekanbaru also revealed the quality of UPTD PPA services, characterized by the availability of psychosocial services, counseling, and legal protection. However, again, constraints related to infrastructure and human resources pose significant challenges in ensuring that every victim receives adequate services. This study indicates that despite efforts to improve services, many structural issues remain unresolved.

While some studies show limited success, they also identify the need to strengthen inter-agency collaboration and raise public awareness. However, there is still little research that specifically examines the challenges faced by UPTD PPA in the Riau Islands Province. Most previous research has focused on other regions, such as Batam and Pekanbaru, which have different contexts and dynamics. Therefore, a more in-depth study is needed to examine the conditions and challenges faced by the UPTD PPA (Child Protection and Empowerment Unit) in the Riau Islands Province.

In this context, the existing research gap lies in the lack of studies that comprehensively examine child protection services in the Riau Islands Province. Further research is needed to identify the differences in challenges faced by regions within the Riau Islands Province, which may differ in terms of infrastructure, resources, and levels of public awareness of children's rights.

Furthermore, a multidisciplinary approach that combines legal, psychological, social, and cultural aspects in addressing cases of sexual violence against children in the Riau Islands Province is still very limited. More comprehensive research that includes these factors will provide a more complete picture of the role of each sector in the victim's recovery process.

Therefore, the main research gap in this study is the need for a more in-depth study of child protection policies in the Riau Islands Province, particularly regarding the effectiveness of implementation, challenges faced, and comparisons with other regions. Research that fills this research gap will make a significant contribution to improving policies and best practices in protecting child victims of sexual violence.

METHOD

The research conducted in the Riau Islands adopted empirical legal research, which means collecting data from primary sources. This research focuses on the application or implementation of normative legislation, which is directly related to each specific or perhaps specific legal event that occurs in society. In addition, the sociological approach focuses on research that aims to gain an empirical understanding of the law by being directly involved in the main problems.

In this study, two types of data must be collected, namely primary data and secondary data. Primary data is obtained through interview methods and direct observation. In-depth interviews were conducted with respondents consisting of staff from the Women and Children Empowerment Service, UPTD PPA Officers of the Riau Islands Province, and child victims of sexual abuse and their family members. This interview was conducted to find out directly about the process and obstacles in providing UPTD PPA services. In this study, informants were selected using a purposive sampling technique, namely a method of taking samples from data sources based on certain considerations.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

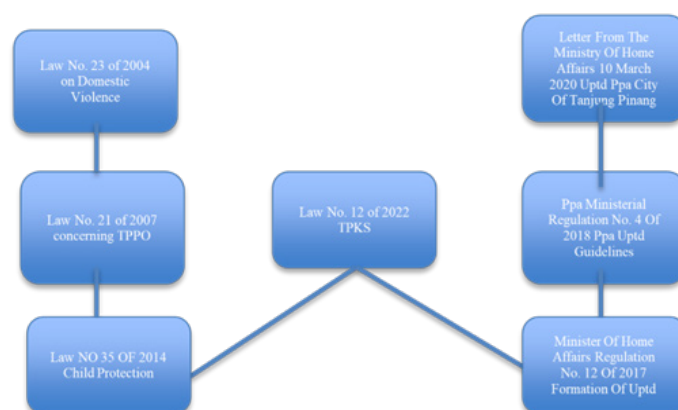
Effectiveness of UPTD PPA Services in Handling Cases of Sexual Abuse against Children

Children who are victims of sexual abuse will experience physical and emotional damage. Any form of sexual-related action carried out by someone without the person's consent, which causes shame, trauma, anger, and similar feelings, is called sexual abuse. In addition, young children who are emotionally unstable may experience trauma that is difficult to heal, which has the potential to threaten their growth and development. In identifying cases of child sexual abuse, there seem to be several obstacles for law enforcement. For example, when sexual abuse, such as rape or assault, occurs without the supervision of others, only the perpetrator and the victim are involved.

Law No. 35 of 2014 which amended Law No. 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection, this law will be very beneficial for the Indonesian people, especially for children who have experienced sexual abuse, because they will receive legal protection for their experiences. Protection of victims of sexual abuse in the criminal justice system is a major focus. The state can provide legal protection to children who are victims of sexual abuse through government agencies that enforce laws and regulations. The Child Protection Law, which is based on the principle of *lex systematice specialis*, applies in cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children through social media, where they are used as actors in pornographic films for financial gain.

Unlike other laws, this law has a special exception, namely that child protection laws are specifically designed to protect children who are victims of crime. As mentioned in various policy documents, such as the Decree of the Minister of Home Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia Number 12 of 2017 concerning Guidelines for the Establishment and Classification of Regional Technical Implementation Units and Services, and the Decree of the Minister of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Number 4 of 2018 concerning Guidelines for the Establishment of UPTD PPA. The following is the legal basis for the establishment of UPTD PPA:

Image I. SOP for Establishing UPTD DPPA
Legal Basis for The Formation Of UPTD DPPA



Source: UPTD PPA Riau Islands Province, 2024

If you pay attention, there are several legal bases underlying the formation of UPTD PPA, which are also in line with the SOP of the assistance. This agency was formed specifically due to the increasing number of cases involving children and women. UPTD PPA assists victims according to their needs, such as accompanying them during trials, making a Minutes of Examination (BAP), assistance with post-mortem examinations, mediation, counseling, or therapy.

Based on the interview, it was revealed that there was an SOP that regulated the formation and handling of this UPTD PPA; all SOPs were arranged as efficiently as possible so that they could be easily understood by the public. Based on the interview results, it was found that the handling and assistance of the UPTD PPA were in accordance with the SOP.

The first assistance for victims is spiritual, where this support is very much needed. Spiritual guidance includes various efforts made by someone to assist others who are facing spiritual problems so that they can overcome their problems and become happier in their lives. This trauma-healing activity is a continuation of the assistance that has been reported to the UPTD PPA with the hope that children who are in great need of special protection will remain enthusiastic about living their daily lives without remembering the past. It is stated in Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 35 of 2014 which is an Amendment to Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection, that psychosocial assistance is a form of special protection for children who are victims of sexual abuse. Interviews have been conducted with UPTD PPA Companions, the following is an excerpt from the interview obtained:

“So there is a companion, and the companionship process starts from the complaint to the handover to the environment, and so far that is what we have been doing until the end until they are willing to return to the environment around them.”

The Normative Role carried out by UPTD PPA is based on a set of existing norms, where after implementing the procedure in assisting, UPTD PPA continues with follow-up assistance and completion of reports. This Standard Operating Procedure includes how to complete Follow-up to the Recommendations of the Audit Result Report. This Standard Operating Procedure was created to implement the completion of Follow-up to the Recommendations of the Audit Result Report.¹

It can be explained that the function of UPTD PPA is a crucial element in efforts to prevent and ensure the safety of victims of sexual harassment, especially children so that they can carry out normal activities in society and provide certainty of punishment for perpetrators of the crime. The high number of sexual harassment in the region makes UPTD PPA an important institution to evaluate its services comprehensively. UPTD PPA also collaborates with village officials and institutions related to child protection to provide social assistance, which aims to ensure that the environment can accept the presence of victims and their families and provide various assistance needed by victims during the legal process they undergo.

After that, the services provided to victims in case advocacy include various activities that can be offered to them in response to their situation. This aims to reduce their suffering, provide guidance, provide protection, avoid recurrence of victimization by certain parties, and support their recovery process. The police also act as an institution that is always involved in handling these guidance cases, working together to ensure the psychological well-being of child victims. By the Child Protection Act and the Juvenile Criminal Justice Act, active police officers must master the knowledge and skills to deal with children. Forensic psychology can assist the police in collecting information from children who are witnesses.²

Organizations and institutions provide protection and services based on their specific tasks and functions, with the following types of protection: a) Temporary protection by the police; b) Protection provided by lawyers through legal assistance, mediation, and negotiation services between the parties involved, including the families of the victim and the perpetrator

¹Idfi Yava Dwilestari, Mulyati Pawennai, and Mohammad Arif, “Efektivitas Penerapan Ancaman Sanksi Pidana Terhadap Pelaku Kekerasan Seksual Terhadap Anak,” *Journal of Lex Philosophy (JLP)* 5, no. 2 (2024): 488–502, <https://doi.org/10.52103/jlp.v5i2>.

²Tri Hermanto and Moh Karim, “Konservasi Hukum Terhadap Korban Kekerasan Seksual Ditinjau Dari Undang-Undang Nomor 12 Tahun 2022 Tentang Tindak Pidana Kekerasan Seksual,” *Jurnal Ilmu Hukum* 1, no. 4 (2024): 224–33, <https://doi.org/10.62017/syariah>.

(mediation), as well as assistance to the victim throughout the investigation, prosecution, and trial process (litigation), followed by cooperation with other law enforcement officers, support officers, and social workers (cooperation and partnership; c) Protection determined through a court decision in the form of a protection order that is valid for one year and can be renewed; d) Health worker services are very much needed, especially in making decisions regarding sanctions for perpetrators of domestic violence; e) Services for social workers who offer counseling to support victims and provide a sense of security, as well as information about their rights; f) Volunteer escort services that help victims find one or more volunteer escorts, and g) Spiritual guidance services that explain the rights and obligations, and promote the victim's faith and piety.

Factual roles refer to functions fulfilled by people or organizations and are based on real situations in the field or in actual social life. One possible method is collaboration between various sectors, implementers may have an understanding of the goals and intentions of the program but often fail to execute the program properly because they reject the current goals, which causes them to avoid and circumvent the program secretly.³ In addition, support from executive officials is also very important to achieve program objectives. The role of leadership is crucial in program implementation, to ensure that objectives are achieved efficiently and effectively. Support from leaders includes prioritizing policies in the program, appointing implementers who support the program, and maintaining balance based on region, religion, ethnicity, gender, and other demographic elements.

UPTD PPA handles sexual harassment in two stages: prevention and handling when sexual harassment occurs. The prevention stage of violence against children is a manifestation of the main task of UPTD PPA, namely the task of supervising the implementation of child protection. This includes visits to various authorities or government institutions and the community to increase understanding of the importance of child protection. The process of handling sexual harassment against children is carried out by accompanying the victim and his/her family during the handling of the case, including legal, medical, psychological, and social assistance. All of these efforts are carried out by building cooperation or collaboration with various parties related to child protection duties. The purpose of the victim assistance process is to restore the victim's condition after experiencing sexual harassment, as well as to restore the social conditions of the community so that they can recover as before the sexual harassment case occurred.

Based on the results of a study conducted by⁴, It is known that funds and facilities have been made available and so far have been sufficient and have contributed to the smooth running of assistance. Article 23 paragraph (1) of Law Number 35 of 2014 on Child Protection, which amends Law Number 23 of 2002 on Child Protection, states that the state, central government, and regional government are responsible for the protection, care, and supervision of children.⁵. In this context, the rights and obligations of parents, guardians, or people who are legally responsible for children must be considered. The following are some of the facilities available at the Tanjungpinang UPTD PPA: Observation results show that there are many facilities, such as disability paths and pusaga. The Family Learning Center (PUSPAGA) is expected to be the main center for helping children and parents with mental health problems. Currently, PUSPAGA has 257 services in the province and district/city, and 26 PUSPAGA have been

³Maurice Siburian and Arozatulo Maendrofa, "Peranan Lembaga Swadaya Masyarakat (LSM) Terhadap Penanganan Kasus Tindak Pidana Kekerasan Seksual Pada Anak," *Jurnal Rectum* 3, no. 1 (2021): 100–106, <http://dx.doi.org/10.46930/jurnalrectum.v3i1.822>.

⁴Devi Sri Maharani, Nazaki Nazaki, and Uly Sophia, "Peran Unit Pelaksana Teknis Daerah Perlindungan Perempuan dan Anak Kota Tanjungpinang Dalam Pendampingan Korban Pelecehan Seksual Pada Anak Di Bawah Umur," *Multidisciplinary Indonesian Center Journal (MICJO)* 1, no. 3 (July 30, 2024): 1365–82, <https://doi.org/10.62567/micjo.v1i3.165>.

⁵*Ibid.*

standardized, including those in the Riau Islands Province. PUSPAGA is supported by experts who help parents, families, or individuals responsible for children to ensure the fulfillment of child care and protection duties so that children's needs for affection are met, attachment, security, and well-being in the best interests of the child, including protecting children from violence, exploitation, abuse, and neglect. In this context, the rights and obligations of parents, guardians, or people who are legally responsible for children must be considered. The following are some of the facilities available at the Tanjungpinang UPTD PPA: Observation results show that there are many facilities, such as disability paths and pusaga. The Family Learning Center (PUSPAGA) is expected to be the main center for helping children and parents with mental health problems. Currently, PUSPAGA has 257 services in the province and district/city, and 26 PUSPAGA have been standardized, including those in the Riau Islands Province. PUSPAGA is supported by experts who help parents, families, or individuals responsible for children to ensure the fulfillment of child care and protection duties so that children's needs for affection are met, attachment, security, and well-being in the best interests of the child, including protecting children from violence, exploitation, abuse, and neglect.⁶

The victim's right to protection can be realized at the first level, namely at the investigation phase. This right aims to provide a beneficial influence on criminal law and to stimulate a sense of justice for the community, especially for victims of crime. When providing legal protection to children who are considered victims, much attention is needed. Regarding the principles of child protection, it is so that a child is not only able to fight. One of the bases of child protection is that children are the main support for the survival of humanity, the nation, and the family. When things like this happen, the most important things must be prioritized over things that threaten life.

Obstacles in UPTD PPA Services for Victims of Child Sexual Abuse

UPTD PPA (Regional Technical Implementation Unit for the Protection of Women and Children) plays a crucial role in resolving the problem of sexual abuse of children, but they face various challenges in carrying out their duties. The following are several obstacles experienced by UPTD PPA in assisting victims:

Sri explained that the UPTD PPA often lacks trained assistants to handle sexual harassment cases.⁷ As a result, the heavy workload for existing companions can affect the quality of service. There are obstacles in the arrangement between various institutions, such as the police, the prosecutor's office, and health institutions. Less than optimal collaboration between these parties can hinder case handling and victim recovery.⁸

Victims of sexual abuse usually require in-depth psychological assistance. However, UPTD PPA sometimes does not have adequate access to the psychological or rehabilitation services needed to support the victim's overall recovery. The lack of public understanding of victims' rights and the process of reporting sexual abuse cases is also a barrier. Many victims are reluctant to report the incident due to social stigma or distrust of the legal system. The ongoing legal process can leave victims feeling deprived of justice. This also hurts their mental and emotional state.

Based on an interview with a Civil Servant of the P3AP2KB Service regarding UPTD PPA services, several challenges were identified in handling cases of child sexual abuse in the Riau Islands Province. The main challenges include limitations in providing services, especially

⁶Purba and Fharadila, "Peran Puspaga Gurindam Kepri Dalam Upaya Pencegahan Kekerasan Terhadap Anak Di Kota Tanjungpinang."

⁷Sri Ambar Rinah, "Peran Unit Pelaksana Teknis Daerah Perlindungan Perempuan Dan Anak Kota Tanjungpinang Dalam Menangani Kasus Pelecehan Seksual Terhadap Anak," *Dialektika Publik* 4, no. 2 (2020): 1–10.

⁸*Ibid.*

in remote areas. Services such as counseling, legal assistance, and emergency facilities are considered inadequate, both in terms of capacity and quality. Case handling is also faced with structural obstacles, such as law enforcement that tends to focus on the perpetrator rather than the recovery of the victim, the lack of special facilities such as safe houses and examination rooms, and the influence of a patriarchal culture that prevents victims from reporting. In addition, social stigma against victims and weak coordination between institutions worsen the effectiveness of services. Limited funding and the lack of prevention socialization and education programs at the community level further deepen the gap in the existing service system.

Solutions to overcome obstacles related to supporting child protection and handling cases of sexual abuse against children in the Riau Islands Province.

This study highlights the various challenges faced by UPTD PPA in providing services to child victims of sexual abuse in the Riau Islands Province. These challenges include limited access, especially in remote areas, lack of adequate psychological services, and the complexity of procedures that often hamper the assistance process. In addition, inefficient bureaucracy, budget constraints, and lack of professional staff further worsen the effectiveness of services. Patriarchal cultural factors and social stigma are also significant obstacles that cause low-case reporting and weak child protection systems.

In the context of child protection, a holistic approach is essential to address the complexity of this issue. This involves strengthening service infrastructure, such as the provision of safe house facilities and counseling rooms, as well as developing a more integrated service system. Stronger inter-agency coordination, public education campaigns to reduce social stigma, and increasing awareness of the importance of early reporting are important steps that must be taken. Close collaboration between government, communities, and educational institutions is a fundamental element in creating a more inclusive and sustainable protection system.

The strategic solutions offered include adding competent professional staff, improving the quality and capacity of service facilities, and strengthening prevention education in schools. In addition, regular training for law enforcement officers to increase sensitivity in handling cases of sexual violence is an important priority. This approach requires better budget allocation and cross-sector commitment to realize significant changes in the child protection system.

Implementation of concrete steps such as the establishment of a regular coordination forum between UPTD PPA, law enforcement agencies, the health sector, and civil society organizations can strengthen cross-sector collaboration. This forum can be used to evaluate cases, identify obstacles, and develop resolution strategies. The preparation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) involving various related parties, the appointment of special officers as liaisons between agencies, and the development of a technology-based integrated data system are also important components of this effort.

Through these steps, it is hoped that the child protection system can become more responsive, coordinated, and oriented towards victim recovery. Accelerating the legal process is also a main agenda to ensure that justice can be felt by victims optimally. With solid collaboration between various stakeholders, it is hoped that child protection in the Riau Islands Province can be more inclusive, effective, and sustainable.

CONCLUSION

The analysis concludes that although the UPTD PPA of the Riau Islands Province has attempted to provide services encompassing various important aspects, its effectiveness is still hampered by several key factors. These obstacles include a lack of trained counselors,

inadequate facilities, and suboptimal inter-agency coordination. While the UPTD PPA's efforts have shown progress, the biggest challenges faced are social stigma that prevents victims and their families from reporting, as well as low public awareness of the rights of child victims.

Theoretically, the findings of this study enrich the discourse on child protection law by highlighting the challenges in establishing legal evidence in cases of child sexual violence, particularly in cases where there are no witnesses other than the victim and the perpetrator. This creates additional obstacles in the legal process and exacerbates the trauma experienced by victims, ultimately hindering their recovery process. This study also highlights the need to improve public understanding of children's rights and child protection, which remains a major obstacle to reporting cases of child sexual violence.

From a practical perspective, this study provides strategic recommendations for local governments and the UPTD PPA (Empowerment and Child Protection Unit). First, local governments need to increase the capacity of the UPTD PPA by providing more trained counselors and improving existing facilities to support victims' recovery more effectively. Second, coordination between institutions involved in handling child sexual violence cases, such as law enforcement officials, social institutions, and health institutions, must be strengthened to ensure integrated and sustainable services for victims. Third, it is crucial to raise public awareness through more intensive campaigns on children's rights and child protection, as well as the importance of reporting any incidents of sexual violence.

This study also emphasizes the importance of strengthening the child protection legal system, particularly by clarifying the rules of evidence in cases of sexual violence, which are often difficult to prove. Furthermore, creating a more welcoming environment for victims to speak up and report without fear or shame will significantly contribute to a more effective child protection system. Overall, this study not only provides deeper insight into the challenges faced by the UPTD PPA (Empowerment and Child Protection Unit) but also provides recommendations that can improve the effectiveness of child protection services in the Riau Islands Province.

Acknowledgments

The authors would like to express their deepest gratitude to all those who have contributed to the completion of this research. First and foremost, we extend our sincere appreciation to our advisors, whose invaluable guidance, insightful feedback, and continuous encouragement have greatly enriched this study.

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