



Child Sexual Violence Prevention Model in Ketapang Regency, Indonesia

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Abstract

This study aims to analyze the model of prevention of sexual violence against children by the Women and Children's Empowerment Division at the Social Services Office of Ketapang Regency, West Kalimantan Province. This study uses a qualitative descriptive method. Data will be collected from research subjects using a purposive sampling method, meaning that the subjects are drawn from individuals directly involved in and familiar with the issues surrounding the prevention of sexual violence against children in Ketapang Regency. Data will be analyzed using techniques. The results indicate that the model for preventing sexual violence against children in Ketapang Regency has been implemented through various strategies, ranging from appropriate sexual education, campaigns and raising public awareness, to inter-agency collaboration and psychological support for victims. The Women and Children's Empowerment Division at the Social Services Office has implemented promotive, preventive, and curative efforts such as outreach, establishing a child protection network, providing reporting mechanisms, and providing support services. However, the high number of cases indicates that these measures have not been fully effective due to weak community participation, minimal synergy between parties, limited specific prevention programs, and obstacles in law enforcement.

Keywords: Sexual Violence, Children, Women and Children Empowerment, Social Services

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Introduction

The urgency of protecting children from child sexual abuse is needed, so the next generation will be raised in a way that is healthy and productive (Prastini, 2024). However, sociologically speaking, child sexual abuse is merely the tip of an iceberg; children are subjected to sexual abuse that harms their physical and psychological well-being in numerous regions (Jamaludin, 2021). Ketapang Regency, in the province of West Kalimantan, demonstrates the urgent need to address this problem because there has been an increase in the number of reported cases over the last seven years. Official data shows that there were 11 reported cases in 2018, followed by a significant increase to 30 cases in 2019. There were 23 reported cases in 2020, 26 in 2021, and the number peaked in 2022 with 44 reported cases. There was a decrease to 36 reported cases in 2023; however, the number of reported cases surged back to a peak of 44 reported cases again in 2024.

The increase of escalation cases has reached a total of 44 cases between 2022 and 2024; this is clear evidence that there are gaps between laws regulating child protection and their effective implementation in the field. The Women's Empowerment and Children's Protection (PPPA) Division of the Ketapang Regency Social Service has developed a prevention model through different strategies. For example, they have conducted educational programs about sexuality and awareness campaigns, developed networks of protection and provided treatment through psychology and assistance for victims. However, the continuing high number of children, who have experienced violence, clearly demonstrates that these intervention strategies are not fully addressing the root of the problem.

Sexual violence against children is generally committed by adults, but in some cases the perpetrators can also be minors who do not fully understand the risks of their actions (Noviana, 2015). If the perpetrator is still a child, the case is not always handled the same as a crime committed by an adult (Hidayati, 2014). Sexual violence against children can occur in various places and the perpetrators are not always from the environment known to the victim, while the victims themselves can come from various groups, both girls and boys (Rohmah et al., 2015). This phenomenon is a serious global problem because violence against children occurs in almost all countries and is often related to the inability of perpetrators to establish healthy relationships with adults, thus using children as an outlet. It is not uncommon for perpetrators to also have experiences of sexual violence in their childhood (Tuliah, 2018).

Child violence is the abuse of power by an adult or older child against a weaker child, who should be protected. This action can cause physical suffering, injury, disability, and even death (Susanto, 2011). Generally, violence is understood as the act of coercing another party without consent using force (Haryatmoko, 2007). Gender-based violence also remains a global issue due to its links to public health and human rights. In Indonesia, many children remain victims of violence, neglect, exploitation, and discrimination (Dania, 2020). Cases of sexual violence are also common, both in educational settings and outside of them, often perpetrated by people known to the victim, and the number of victims is very high (Handayani, 2018). Threats from perpetrators make children afraid to report the abuse, and the impact can persist into adulthood, hindering their development (Agustina & Ratri, 2018).

Seeing the increasing number of cases of sexual violence against children, the government has established protection agencies such as the Social Services Agency. This agency plays a crucial role in providing outreach, education, and prevention of child sexual abuse through programs in communities, schools, and villages (Waruwu et al., 2024). Furthermore, the Social Services Agency provides counseling and psychosocial support for victims, collaborates with law enforcement officials to ensure justice, and establishes partnerships with educational institutions and community

organizations to strengthen child protection. Research shows that the active role of the Social Services Agency is crucial to creating a safe environment for children. Therefore, child protection policies need to be continuously strengthened, social services improved, and inter-agency collaboration must be sustained for protection programs to be effective (Adhi & Sulandari, 2019).

Sexual violence experienced by children has significant consequences and impacts that can affect their behavior and thoughts. Children who experience sexual violence tend to have difficulty interacting with others (Putri et al., 2024). This is because children tend to be easily angered by those around them and experience feelings of helplessness. These incidents can also cause children to lose self-confidence and feel inferior, making them afraid to socialize and limiting their social interactions (Nurfazryana & Mirawati, 2022). Sexual violence against children is a very serious issue because it involves human rights violations. Therefore, child protection is necessary to prevent and address cases of sexual violence they experience (Batian, 2024).

Several previous studies have explored strategies for preventing sexual violence against children from various perspectives. Research by (Lisnasari et al., 2022) emphasized that the effectiveness of child protection programs depends heavily on strengthening regional regulations and adequate budget allocation. Meanwhile, a study conducted by (Permatasari & Swasti, 2023) in urban areas highlighted the role of information technology in accelerating reporting mechanisms for cases of violence. Furthermore, (Sari & Mawarda, 2025) established that early sexual education provided by families will impact violent crime rates. The findings from these studies have contributed greatly to knowledge of how this will affect families but most of these studies look at larger policies or short interventions within a family. However, they are still limited in capturing the operational dynamics at the regional social service level, given the characteristics of a large region and specific sociocultural challenges.

The research gap in this study lies in the discrepancy between the implementation of formal child protection programs and the reality of increasing cases on the ground. Unlike previous research, which generally only evaluated one aspect of the intervention, this study more comprehensively analyzes the prevention model implemented by the Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Division in Ketapang Regency. Although various promotive, preventive, and curative programs have been implemented, data shows that the number of violence cases in Ketapang Regency still experiences quite high fluctuations, even reaching 44 cases in 2022 and 2024. Therefore, the novelty of this study lies in the analysis of obstacles to synergy between institutions and low community participation, so that it is hoped that it can provide recommendations for a more responsive child protection model that is appropriate to the conditions of Ketapang Regency.

Based on the background and research gaps outlined above, this study focuses on answering several key issues formulated into the following research questions: (1) What is the model for preventing sexual violence against children implemented by the Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Division of the Ketapang Regency Social Service? And (2) What are the efforts and challenges faced by this agency in its efforts to reduce the number of cases of sexual violence against children in Ketapang Regency?

In line with these research questions, this study aims to analyze in-depth the model for preventing sexual violence against children implemented by the Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Division of the Ketapang Regency Social Service, using promotive, preventive, and curative approaches. Furthermore, this study aims to identify and map various operational challenges, both internally and in terms of inter-agency coordination and external socio-cultural factors within the community, that hinder the effectiveness of child protection in Ketapang Regency.

The results of this study are expected to provide strategic recommendations to optimize synergies for more responsive and sustainable child protection at the regional level.

Research Methods

This study employed descriptive qualitative research. According to (Moleong, 2021), descriptive research describes phenomena as they occur in the field as they are, then draws conclusions to develop a theory, prioritizing process over results. According to (Ramdhan, 2021), descriptive research involves describing, recording, analyzing, and interpreting current conditions, including various types of research, to identify possible relationships between variables. The use of this methodology is significant in terms of its overall relevance to analyze thoroughly both the model for preventing child sexual violence and the operational challenges experienced by the Ketapang Regency Social Services. A descriptive qualitative approach allows researchers to systematically describe (record) and analyze (interpret) the real world in which they are studying without changing the variables being tested and thus to produce a theory based upon the implementation of the program, rather than on merely statistical findings.

A purposive sampling method was utilized to select research subjects, which included a key informant (Head of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Division, Ketapang Regency Social Service) as strategic policymaker; technical implementation staff; Child Protection Network Counsellors - who have experience and knowledge about the field dynamics. Direct involvement in creating the promotive, preventive, and curative strategies for sexual violence and the understanding of social and cultural barriers that affect the fluctuations in case numbers in the area were the justification for selecting these informants. Primary data collection was conducted using in-depth interviews and observations, while secondary data consisted of official reports from 2018-2024 and other relevant documents regarding sexual violence cases.

Table 1. Research Informans

No	Position/Role	Institution	Selection Criteria
1	Head of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (PPPA) Division	Ketapang Regency Social Service	Acts as a strategic policymaker responsible for designing and supervising child protection programs
2	Child Protection Program Technical Staff	Ketapang Regency Social Service	Directly involved in the implementation of child sexual violence prevention programs
3	Child Protection Network Counselor	Child Protection Assistance Unit / Partner Institution	Has experience in providing counseling and assistance to child victims and understands field dynamics
4	Case Data Administration Officer	Ketapang Regency Social Service	Responsible for managing and documenting reports of child sexual violence cases
5	Child Social Worker / Child Protection Facilitator	Social Service Partner Institution	Has at least two years of experience in child protection assistance and community outreach

Source: Author research, 2025

In order for researchers to validate the accuracy of their research data, researchers established criteria for inclusion, which included obtaining data from informants who had at least two years of relevant experience working in the field of Child Protection as well as obtaining official documentation from appropriate sources. Conversely, exclusion criteria prevented researchers from obtaining access to data that was not directly related to the area of administrative jurisdiction of the

Ketapang Regency, or to obtain access to case data when there was not sufficient legal documentation to support the case. In addition to these criteria, researchers will also obtain general descriptive data from all respondents, including demographic information and work status, while still adhering to ethical principles of research and confidentiality of research data.

The data analysis procedure was carried out systematically through three main stages, which took place interactively from the beginning of the data collection process. The first stage was data reduction, which filtered and categorized raw data from interviews and documentation to focus on themes, prevention models, and strategic challenges. The second stage was data display, where the data reduction results were organized into a logical descriptive narrative to demonstrate the relationships between phenomena. The final stage is verification or drawing conclusions, namely re-checking the patterns found in order to formulate a credible final conclusion regarding the effectiveness of the child protection system in Ketapang Regency.

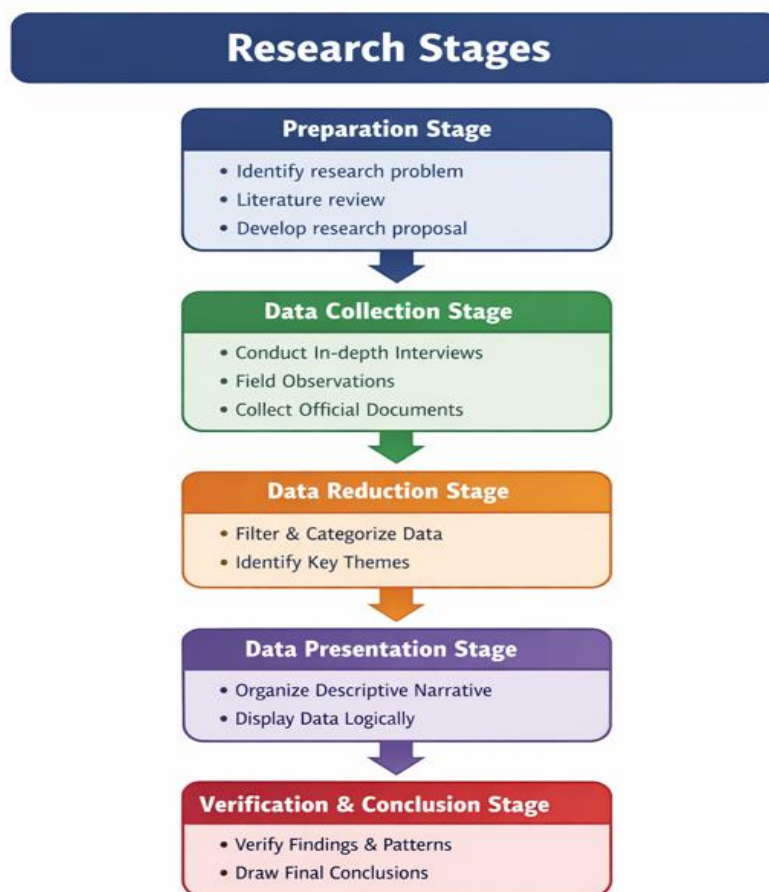


Figure 1. Research Stages. Source: Researcher, 2025.

Results and Discussion

Model for Preventing Sexual Violence Against Children by the Women and Children's Empowerment Division of the Ketapang Regency Social Services

The impacts of violence against women and children include physical injuries such as bruises, contusions, broken bones, disability, and pain, even death. Mental and psychological impacts include feelings of low self-esteem, shame, humiliation, nightmares, depression, disruption in social relationships with parents, fears of leaving relationships, facing new life, and entering new relationships. Sleep disturbances such as insomnia and nightmares. Social impacts experienced by victims of violence include isolation and exclusion from social settings (school, workplace, neighborhood, etc.). Economic impacts include the relatively high costs incurred by victims to recover from their health. Furthermore, victims may also experience job losses due to the violence they experience. Impacts on the reproductive and sexual health of victims of violence can include attacks on the victim's body, including the genitals, resulting in damage to the reproductive organs. Forced sexual intercourse without knowing the partner's health status can result in the transmission of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV/AIDS. Violence against victims is also a serious problem. This can lead to trauma, which can lead to fear of sexual intercourse in the future. In response to this problem, the proposed solution is a model for preventing violence against women and children, implemented through outreach activities to prevent violence against women and children in Ketapang Regency.

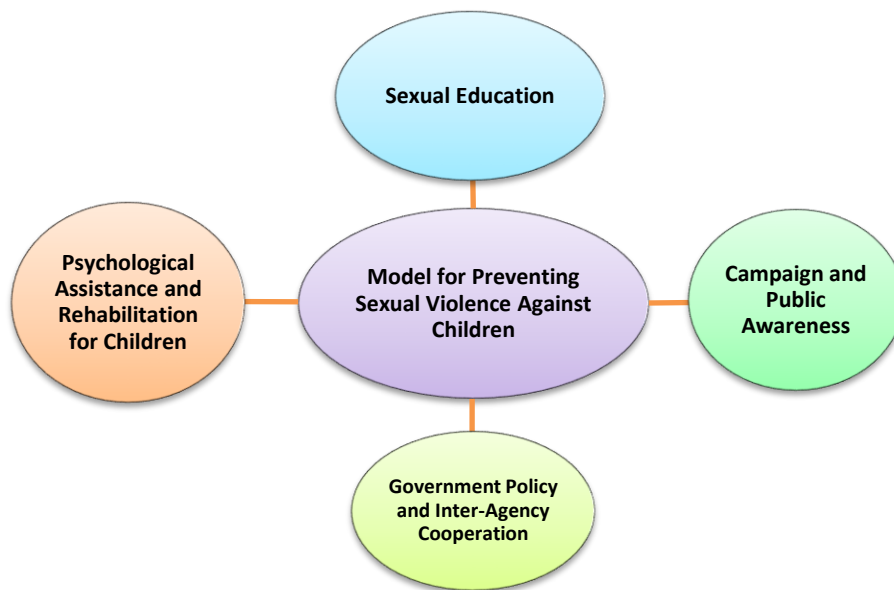


Figure 2. Model for Prevention of Child Sexual Violence Cases

The prevention model for cases of sexual violence against children typically involves a multi-level approach that focuses on families, schools, communities, and government policies. The following are some key components that are effective in preventing sexual violence against children. Based on research related to the role of women's empowerment and child protection by the Social Services Office of Ketapang Regency, West Kalimantan Province, the following results were obtained:

- a. Appropriate sexual education

Sexual violence against children is the involvement of a child in any form of sexual activity that occurs before the child reaches a certain age limit set by the laws of the relevant country, where an adult, another child older than the child, or someone deemed to have more knowledge than the child exploits the child for sexual pleasure or sexual activity.

Age-appropriate sexual education is important to provide children with an understanding of their bodily boundaries and rights. This program should involve parents so they know how to accompany and teach their children about bodily safety and how to report anything suspicious.

The Women's Empowerment, Child Protection, and Family Planning Division of Ketapang Regency is involved in preventing sexual violence against children through social outreach activities. These activities include outreach activities targeting schools, Islamic boarding schools, orphanages, community groups, and integrated health post (Posyandu) cadres. These activities educate families on family care, provide counseling for families, children, and adolescents experiencing problems, and establish women and children protection (PPA) sections in every neighborhood association (RT) throughout Ketapang Regency to facilitate information dissemination and facilitate prompt action.

The implementation of sexuality education in Ketapang Regency is aimed at serving as a primary preventive tool to equip children with knowledge about bodily boundaries and self-awareness. Research findings indicate that these efforts are carried out through outreach in schools and community groups. Theoretically, this aligns with (Hardianto & Rachmawan, 2025) argument that character-based sexuality education is a crucial foundation for building children's emotional defenses. However, the effectiveness of education in Ketapang is hampered by the relatively formalistic delivery methods. According to (Custo et al., 2024), educational programs will be considered effective if they include all three aspects: Education Delivery, Technical Skills Teaching, and Prevention Programming. As a global study has shown.

A comparison with a global study by (UNESCO, 2018) children receiving comprehensive sexual health instruction reported fewer high-risk behaviors and were more likely to report instances of violence against them. However, research in Ketapang Regency, Indonesia, has demonstrated that some parents resist providing children with sexual education due to the cultural stigma attached to it, and therefore no programs have been developed because socio-cultural conditions are restricting the types and amounts of instructional materials available in those areas. This phenomenon is supported by research by (ICSAR, 2025).

b. Campaigns and Public Awareness

The community knows more about the dangers and consequences of violence and how to report cases of violence because of public campaigns and training. People will be more aware of what is necessary to create a safe and loving environment for children, so residents can watch for suspicious activity and call authorities if there's abuse or neglect. If an untoward incident occurs to a child, it is necessary to raise public awareness and actively participate in providing assistance so that victims can be quickly identified and assisted, and victims can quickly and easily seek help. The community assists and facilitates victims and their families in obtaining assistance by referring them to appropriate service institutions tailored to their problems and needs.

This enabling role involves visits to partner schools and the dissemination of information on the importance of child protection through radio talk shows. However, outreach related to institutional strengthening has not yet been conducted. This role focuses more on providing public understanding or awareness of the threat of child sexual violence.

Therefore, it is necessary to raise awareness and knowledge within the community regarding the possibilities or symptoms of violence, the causes, risks, and factors that strengthen existing child protection measures. It is also necessary to develop a prevention action plan aimed at eliminating or reducing causal factors and strengthening protective factors for children, parents, families, and the community.

Social campaigns are also being conducted through print and electronic media, posters, to facilitate public access to information and reporting of violence. This also raises awareness of the dangers of sexual violence targeting child victims.

The Ketapang Regency Social Services Office has conducted various public campaigns to shift the societal paradigm from a permissive to a protective one. This strategy is academically supported by the (CDC, 2024) framework, which places "promoting social norms that protect against violence" as a key pillar of prevention. The campaign in Ketapang focused on eliminating stigma against victims, encouraging families to report incidents. This aligns with the findings of (Kurniati et al., 2025), who emphasized that courage in reporting cases is a vital first step in breaking the cycle of sexual violence, which has been shrouded in shame.

c. Government Policy and Inter-Agency Cooperation.

We need policies in the area of health, education, and social welfare, among other national policies. In order to prevent and deal with sexual violence, the government, law enforcement agencies and non-profit organizations must work together. In performing its activities, the entire BP3AKB staff of Ketapang Regency will develop a whole and compact team, by applying the principles of coordination, integration, synchronization and synergy in order to achieve the vision and mission.

In structural terms, the child protection regulations owned by the government of Ketapang Regency only rely heavily on cross-sectoral synergy. Numerous studies show constraints for the Social Services, Police and Health Services to work together. This is the result of the analysis of Utami (2022) regarding the handling of child violence in West Kalimantan which is more sectoral and reactive. When cases haven't been handled as a system, it is often bureaucratic that actually delays the justice for the victim. One-Stop Services system as implemented across several regions had several successful implementations where all services involve from reporting to postmortem come under one coordination system thus became successful.

The discourse on the Pentahelix model (government, academia, community, business, and media) also demonstrates that child protection cannot rely solely on a single agency (Lestari et al., 2025). This research found that the involvement of the private sector and academia in formulating prevention policies in Ketapang remains minimal. This gap aligns with (Sahputri & As' ari, 2021) critique, which states that regional policies are often strong on paper but weak in terms of operational budget coordination. This weak synergy is the answer to why, even though formal programs are available, prevention efforts have not been able to provide significant pressure to reduce the number of perpetrators of sexual violence in the region.

d. Psychological Support and Rehabilitation for Children

Children who are victims of or are threatened with sexual violence need intensive psychological support. This support can help them recover from trauma and rebuild a sense of security, which is crucial for preventing long-term impacts.

Psychological support includes initial and follow-up counseling, psychological support for incoming cases, either through psychological institutions at regional hospitals or PPA units, monitoring the

progress of victims, distributing more comprehensive treatment to incoming cases, and networking with all parties for better case management. In providing services, volunteer companions or social workers can:

- Provide information to victims about their rights to have one or more companions;
- Accompany victims during investigations, prosecutions, or court hearings by guiding them to objectively and fully describe the domestic violence they experienced;
- Listen empathetically to everything the victim says so that they feel safe in the presence of a companion; and
- Play an active role in providing psychological and physical support to victims (Article 23 (Law No. 23 of 2004 of the Republic of Indonesia concerning the Elimination of Domestic Violence, 2004)).

Second, recovery is a form of social protection aimed at helping alleviate, protect, and restore the psychosocial condition of victims. The age groups of victims unable to function socially properly include:

- Child victims of violence (ages 0-18)
- Adult victims of violence (ages 18-60)
- Elderly victims of violence (ages 60 and over)

From the results of research on violence against women and children, researchers found that during counseling sessions, there was a lack of cooperation between victims and their families. Victims or families did not attend counseling sessions, requiring rescheduling. There was a lack of rehabilitation centers for child perpetrators of violence. There was difficulty in obtaining evidence for perpetrators who refused to admit their actions. Third, resocialization, which provides preparatory services for the repatriation of former victims, is intended to ensure that former victims are ready to reintegrate into their families and communities. In the research on violence against women and children, researchers found that some victims were not residents of Ketapang Regency, so they did not have BPJS cards or ID cards. Based on the research findings, regarding the role of the Women's Empowerment, Child Protection, and Family Planning Service, the resocialization of the Women's Empowerment, Child Protection, and Family Planning Service is limited to providing assistance to victims of violence, and victims will be assisted by relevant agencies. In this regard, in accordance with the components of the Women's Empowerment, Child Protection, and Family Planning Service's role, which significantly influences violence, the service emphasizes three roles it plays in addressing this issue: First, prevention, which is a social control measure taken to prevent or reduce the likelihood of undesirable events occurring in the future and to suppress the growth and development of violent behavior.

From the results of the research on violence against women and children, researchers found that many people still hesitate to report acts of violence to the authorities, believing it to be a disgrace to their family, region, or school. There is still a lingering perception of the rationale for disciplining children through acts of violence. There is still a lack of shared perception among regional officials, who still think sectorally about fulfilling children's rights and protection. This model is more effective if implemented with the participation of all levels of society and supported by firm government policies.

The regulation of the Ketapang Regency Government, in accordance with the child protection policy, is an essential regulation. However, the realisation of this regulation is depending on cross-sectoral synergy. As per the study findings, there are difficulties in horizontal coordination involving Social Services, Police, and Health Services. This situation enforces the Analysis of Handling of Child Violence in West Kalimantan which tends to be sectoral and reactive. A lack of regularly integrated protocol for handling cases, usually falls prey to bureaucratic hurdles that in fact delay victims justice. In contrast, many regions that have applied a One-Stop Services system can run effectively. Where all services from reporting to post-mortem are under one coordination system.

Discussion regarding the Pentahelix model (Governments, Academics, Community, Businesses, and Media) also described that child protection cannot rest on only one agency. In Ketapang, the mistake to involve the private sector and academic community in making prevention policies is still happening. The lack of coordination is at the heart of why prevention efforts, despite the existence of formal programs, have not been able to give significantly to lower the number of perpetrators of sexual violence in the area.

Efforts to Prevent Sexual Violence Against Children by the Women's and Children's Empowerment Division of the Ketapang Regency Social Services

1. Promotional Efforts (Increasing Public Knowledge and Awareness)

Increase people's knowledge or awareness of sexual violence that can threaten children. Your effort in developing outreach programs will go a long way in schools, villages and the community in general to help build a collective responsibility against sexual violence. One also gives an insight into the prevention of the same and building a safe environment for children in the community, therefore, leading to the process of sensitisation of the masses. School-going outreach helps children, teachers and education staff learn about body boundaries, when and how to identify inappropriate behaviour, and what to do when a child experiences or witnesses an act which indicates sexual violence. Village and community outreach programs target parents and the general public to ensure they have adequate knowledge to safeguard and supervise children in their surroundings.

Besides outreach programs, education about the types of sexual violence and how to recognize them is a key step in prevention. The idea behind this education is to convey that sexual violence is not restricted to physical actions but encompasses verbal abuse, online sexual exploitation, and emotional manipulation things that children and even their parents may not recognize. The idea behind giving a clearer picture in this guide is so that the public can be more alert and identify the signs of sexual violence early on and that they may take preventive action more quickly. Through training, group discussions, and easy-to-understand visual aids such as posters and learning modules, this education will be made available to various groups.

Campaigns that focus on protecting children are an essential companion to all other forms of child protection promotion. The Social Services Agency uses numerous methods to reach out to communities in relation to child protection issues and the risks of sexual abuse towards children. Some of these methods include the use of social media, advertising on billboards, and participating in various public events. The involvement of community and faith-based leaders is an important component of the campaign. These leaders are influential community figures and have a significant impact on influencing people's behaviour and attitudes in the community. By having leaders in the community involved with the campaign, it reinforces the moral and social message that protecting children is a shared responsibility within the community, not only the responsibility of the government. Community leaders' involvement allows the prevention messages to be linked to their

moral and spiritual values, allowing for community-wide acceptance and fostering a stronger culture of child protection.

2. Preventive Efforts (Early Prevention and Strengthening of Protection Systems)

The preventive efforts undertaken by the social service of Ketapang Regency through the empowerment division of women and children by strengthening the protection of children early at the community level. Establishment of the Community-Based Integrated Child Protection (PATBM) network is one of the strategies. The PATBM offers a platform wherein communities may address issues of violence against children in general and sexual violence specifically. By way of this network, the communities will be getting involved in the creation of a safe environment, monitoring for risk, and reporting cases. The presence of PATBM enhances the position of the community as the first line of child protection and eases the coordination of residents with related government agencies.

Not only establishing the network, capacity building for parents, teachers and village officials also part of preventive effort. Training covers the understanding of positive parenting patterns, providing emotional protection for children, and detection of early signs of sexual violence. Parents and teachers are trained to spot behaviour changes in a child, for example, anxiety, fear and dipping performance level etc., these are signs of violence. Village officials educated on reporting procedures and initial handling steps to enable quick response to being learnt that cases had happened in their areas. The focus of this training has been on community preparedness against sexual violence.

An additional measure to reduce the occurrence of child sexual abuse is making confidential counselling available to families deemed to be at a high risk of abuse. Under the auspices of the Social Services Department, families obtain various resources including social worker, who provides them with psychosocial assistance to mitigate. These psychosocial support services provide the basis for an improved environment within a home, by helping families resolve their own internal conflicts (e.g., domestic violence) and identify solutions to domestic problems (e.g., financial burdens) that create increased vulnerability to sexual violence against children. Through the provision of psychosocial support services, families will also have the opportunity to establish healthy communication patterns between themselves and between themselves and their children. The goal is to remove the sin of sexual violence against all children through loving and nurturing families; establishing a collaborative partnership between a family and the agencies that work with them will create a strong foundation to reduce the occurrence of sexual violence against children.

One of the most significant challenges is to establish a collaborative and constructive working relationship. The agencies involved in the collaborative working relationship include the Social Services Department, Police Department, School Districts, Community Health Centers, and Non-Governmental Organizations. The Police Department will provide law enforcement and security services to protect children, the School District will serve as the primary organization to provide early recognition of children who are likely at risk of being abused, and the Community Health Centers will provide health care services to children. The NGOs will provide support for advocacy and for the child and/or family as victims/survivors of sexual violence. The cooperative effort of the aforementioned agencies seeks to develop a coordinated, cooperative, and responsive framework of protection for children against sexual violence. Together, these agencies will work collaboratively to optimize their prevention efforts and continue to provide protection to children throughout the Ketapang Regency..

3. Curative and Responsive Efforts (Case Handling)

Another preventive approach is the availability of counseling for families assessed to be at high risk of child sexual violence. By this service, families are supported by the Social Services Department

including through psychosocial support to enable them to overcome internal conflict such as domestic conflict, economic pressure or mental health issues which can heighten vulnerability. Counseling educates parents about communicating effectively with their children and developing sound relations with each other in the family.

It is hoped that the family will provide psychological and emotional support to the children so that chances of sexual violence may reduce. A major challenge is establishing a fruitful collaboration. The Social Services Department cooperates with other police, schools, community health centre and NGO to set up protection mechanism. Role of Police is law enforcement and security. The school is the primary institution for early identification. Health centers are to provide the health support. NGOs are to support advocacy and victim/survivor support. This inter-agency collaborative effort seeks to establish a cohesive, efficient, and responsive protection network against sexual violence. With strong coordination, the prevention process can be managed optimally and provide protection for children throughout Ketapang Regency.

Coordination with law enforcement is an essential element of both curative and responsive approaches to helping children harmed by sexual assault. By working alongside law enforcement, the Social Services Agency helps to ensure that law enforcement's investigative process adheres to protocol to protect the child's best interest. This coordination also aims to allow for maximum legal protection for victims of sexual violence, such as through the repeated victimisation of victims during the investigation. This synergy will also help expedite the legal process against perpetrators so that victims and their families will gain access to justice.

When a child is in need of special protection and care, the Social Services Agency will offer a safe house (shelter) as a temporary safe place until the child is able to go home. The safe house provides a safe and comfortable living environment free of additional pressure or danger. Child victims will remain in the safe house to receive medical treatment, counselling services, and intensive support. Additionally, during the long-term healing process from the effects of violence, victims may receive rehabilitation and recovery services that assist in the physical and mental recovery from trauma (e.g., trauma therapy, social services and reintegration into their family and community). With these curative and responsive strategies, the Ketapang Regency Social Services Office will provide comprehensive protection, recovery, and support to every child victim of sexual violence.

Challenges in Preventing Sexual Violence Against Children by the Women's and Children's Empowerment Division of the Ketapang Regency Social Services Office

- **High Number of Cases**

The high case number of child sexual violence in Ketapang Regency presents a significant concern to both the Social Services Office's Women's and Children's Empowerment Division and children themselves. Between January and July 2023, there were 11 cases of child sexual violence from January 2018 through July 2023. The number of such cases has only increased over the period with a report of 30 cases reported by December 2019; 23 reported by December 2020; 25 cases from January through December of 2022; and at least 34 cases as of the middle of July 2023. Given the fact that prevention programs appear to have been implemented without being able to alter the significant increase that occurred, it can be deduced that children in Ketapang remain vulnerable and therefore must have a more extensive and effective child protection system in place at all levels, but especially at the level of the government entities whose mandate is to protect children from such incidents.

In addition to the previously-stated child sexual violence statistics, the data reflects unaddressed community-wide structural and social issues. Insufficient family awareness surrounding appropriate sex education, well-established community-taught sexual or reproductive education, and/or cultural practices that have resulted in the maligning of cases of sexual violence against children, are a few of the factors that contribute to the further risk of child sexual violence. Many children who suffer from sexual violence often do not report the crime against them due to fears of retribution or due to social stigma about being a victim of sexual violence. Therefore, in order to reduce the number of children who continue to be victims of sexual violence, a more collaborative and comprehensive approach is required than is currently being used, due in part to how currently implemented prevention strategies focus on outreach to the community only and not on changing attitudes, as well as the need to support additional community programs in order to foster an effective child protection program in the Ketapang area.

- **Lack of synergy between stakeholders**

The Women's and Children's Empowerment Sector faces an enormous barrier in the Ketapang Regency due to a lack of synergy between all stakeholders regarding the prevention of sexual violence against children. Although many programs and policies exist, their execution is regularly hindered by a lack of collaboration among various agencies, including village governments, schools, health services, law enforcement, and community organizations, which leads to inadequate coordination, creating a non-integrated prevention process and a non-integrated case management process, creating fragmented, ineffective responses to sexual violence against children. This aligns with findings from Pragitha Rahmawati and Hertati (2023), who emphasize that without rigid collaborative governance structures between local governments, health services, and NGOs, case rehabilitation processes remain suboptimal.

At the family level and within the community, there is still a low level of active participation. Many families do not understand the significance of recognising and immediately reporting instances of sexual violence when there is a culture of silence around these circumstances. Because of this, it is difficult for government agencies to obtain initial data on incidents of sexual violence and provide effective protection and services to children in need. The community is not optimally engaged in community-based environmental monitoring, creating additional opportunity for an environment conducive to violence.

- **Limited prevention programs**

Limited child sexual violence prevention programs are an essential factor that hinders the provision of protection from sexual violence to children in Ketapang Regency. While there has been a multitude of initiatives aimed at addressing the problem through the Women and Children's Empowerment Division, the overall provision of services continues to be limited due to insufficient levels of coverage and intensity. Reproductive health education for children and protection from sexual violence has not been broadly provided at the school level or in the home; consequently, many parents and teachers view sex education as a taboo topic and do not openly share necessary information about body boundaries, types of sexual violence, or how to access help with children.

There is also a lack of knowledge and understanding of the risks of sexual violence among parents. The rapid development of digital technologies and an increasingly mobile population means parents must be more aware of and provide closer supervision to their children in both the physical and digital world. Unfortunately, the low level of knowledge and skills possessed by parents in appropriately supervising their children coupled with a lack of access to information makes a child increasingly at risk of becoming a victim of sexual violence. The existing parent education programs

do not have sufficient service delivery capacity (i.e., coverage) to reach communities in all areas; particularly in the rural and remote areas of the Ketapang Regency, where there is a limited availability of information about the prevention of child sexual violence.

- **Law enforcement challenges**

Law enforcement has faced a variety of challenges regarding the prosecution of child sexual violence cases in Ketapang Regency. Although there are many regulations that outline child protection, law enforcement implementation of these regulations does not always meet expectations. Among the challenges related to law enforcement's challenge in addressing child sexual violence is the different interpretations of laws among law enforcement officials. This is particularly evident during the transition and application of newer comprehensive legal frameworks, where an uneven understanding of victimology and child protection mandates often leads to inconsistent investigations and court outcomes (Ananda et al., 2023).

In addition, frustration with law enforcement handling of child sexual violence cases can vary, law enforcement agencies have attempted to educate their officers on the appropriate manner of handling child victims of sexual violence, however, many law enforcement remain using traditional legal processes and are not cognizant of the psychological issues that are associated with child victims of sexual violence at the time that they are being questioned by law enforcement. As a result, they may not feel safe or comfortable to disclose the information and provide the officer with any meaningful information which is often insufficient. In addition to the lack of understanding regarding the manner in which to handle child victims of sexual violence, there are many cultural challenges (lack of culturally appropriate child victim examination facilities) associated with providing law enforcement with culturally appropriate examination facilities for child victims resulting in the inability of law enforcement to provide children with the best possible support.

Conclusion

The study has shown that the three components of the preventive model that were examined in this research (women's empowerment, child protection, and family services) in terms of developing appropriate sexual education, public campaigns and awareness, government policy, and inter-agency cooperation, with the assistance of clinical psychologists through staged counselling to victims of violence and related agencies (such as social services) to resolve their various problems. Through the use of promotive, preventive and curative measures, the Women and Child Empowerment Division of the Ketapang Social Service has taken action relative to providing a safe environment for children by preventing sexual violence through a variety of initiatives. These initiatives include socialisation programs and public education, developing an effective network of child protection agencies, a mechanism for reporting abuse, and providing services to assist victims. Although there is often little or no community participation, insufficient ongoing education, and less than satisfactory cross-sector collaboration, these efforts have not resulted in the desired outcome of a significant reduction in the prevalence of sexual violence against children in the Ketapang Regency. Various challenges such as minimal synergy between parties, limited specific prevention programs, and obstacles in law enforcement also hamper the effectiveness of child protection. Lack of coordination between families, schools, health services, law enforcement, and government agencies results in a disjointed process of prevention and case management. Therefore, strengthening inter-agency integration, increasing the capacity of supporting resources, and a sustained commitment from all elements of society are needed to ensure child protection efforts in Ketapang Regency are more effective and create a safe environment for children

By examining the through several programs in provinces with formal structure and resources, research made both theoretical and practical contributions to this field. On the other hand it also enriched literature about anthropological child protection models designed for regions with distinct cultural characteristics. However, because the main body of earlier literature doesn't include facts and data, this study has limitations; It focuses primarily on how institutions of government are seen as actors in this process. It does not; therefore, provide a rich sample which includes victims or their families who were affected by sexual abuse. Also, the focus of the research is at the subordinate administrative level of counties and government districts, meaning that relevant prevention dynamics not seen. To this end, future research should move in several directions. Firstly, it is recommended that more in-depth occurrence data should be added; for instance, ethnographic studies of cultural obstacles at the grassroots level would reveal why almost no people are able to participate in early detection. Secondly, it is necessary now to evaluate quantitatively those materials for sex education which have an impact that changes children's behavior. and also look into the effectiveness of digitizing systems for reporting, breaking through geographical and bureaucratic boundaries. The indirect linkage approach the very survival and upbringing of children in Indonesia has always depended on some degree of inter-institutional cooperation. Here, it needs to be further strengthened by extending help to children and their families--at times over long periods when both will have left home.

Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)-Assisted Technology

The authors declare that no artificial intelligence (AI) tools were used in the preparation, analysis, or writing of this manuscript. All aspects of the research, including data collection, interpretation, and manuscript preparation, were carried out entirely by the authors without the assistance of AI-based technologies.

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