



Criminological Review of Sexual Offenses Committed by Children

I Gede Wiarta^{1*}, Dwi Ratna Kamala Sari Lukman², Wihelmus Jemarut³,

I Nyoman Suarna⁴, I Nyoman Sumantri⁵, I Gusti Agung Andriani⁶

^{1,2,3,4,5,6} Institut Agama Hindu Negeri Gde Pudja Mataram, Indonesia

Korespondensi Penulis : wiarta08@gmail.com

Abstract: Crimes of sexual intercourse committed by children are one type of crime that requires special attention, especially as the incidence of such crimes committed by children has been increasing year by year. The significant impact resulting from this crime should certainly be a matter of our collective concern. Therefore, this research aims to identify the factors underlying why children commit sexual offenses and the rehabilitation efforts undertaken by the Special Child Development Institution Class II Lombok Tengah for children who commit sexual offenses. This research is empirical in nature. Data in this research were obtained using observation methods, interviews, documentation, and literature study. The data were then analyzed using a sociological approach, a case study approach, and a legislative approach. The data was then presented using a descriptive qualitative method. The research results show that the factors causing children to commit sexual offenses are poor environmental factors, social media factors, and lack of parental supervision. Meanwhile, the efforts made by the Special Child Development Institution Class II Lombok Tengah for children who commit sexual offenses are personality development, including spiritual development, national and state awareness, reintegration, and intellectual development, and independence development, including horticulture, agriculture, basic welding techniques, and barbershop skills.

Keywords: Criminal Offense, Foster Children, Sexual Intercourse.

1. INTRODUCTION

The development of technology is one of the great achievements of humanity. Technology has a significant impact on the world's development, affecting various aspects of progress. This progress brings numerous benefits to society, such as making it easier for people to perform tasks and the emergence of diverse technologies. Which provides significant benefits to society (Ilmi & Najicha, 2022).

The rapid and advanced development of technology seems like a double-edged sword; on one hand, it provides positive impacts, but on the other hand, it brings negative consequences. The positive value obtained makes it easier for society to complete their daily tasks and activities, while on the other hand, the negative impact provides the possibility of norm violations, whether small-scale, national, or international (Bintara Sura Priambada, 2022).

Speaking of the negative impact of technological advancement, one of the emerging types of crimes is sexual assault. As we know, sexual intercourse is a crime that often occurs within society, and the perpetrators are usually close acquaintances. The victims of this crime are predominantly women and children. Based on data obtained from the Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Office of West Nusa Tenggara, in 2022, there were 188 cases of children in West Nusa Tenggara province becoming victims of sexual violence, of

which 132 children were victims of sexual intercourse, and among the perpetrators of these crimes, some were still minors.

The development of sexual offenses committed by perpetrators who are still underage is experiencing a significant increase. from the Data Base System (SDS) of the LPKA Lombok Tengah, a total of 62 (sixty-two) children in conflict with the law are undergoing rehabilitation at the Class II Special Child Development Institute in Lombok Tengah, where 40 (forty) children are involved in sexual assault cases. The data describes the large number of children in NTB who are in conflict with the law and undergoing rehabilitation at the LPKA. The large number of cases certainly needs attention and efforts should be made to find solutions to reduce these numbers. Children who should still be in the stage of self-introduction and have not yet reached the level of being attracted to the opposite sex have instead become perpetrators of sexual offenses themselves. The phenomenon of increasing numbers of children as perpetrators of sexual offenses must certainly be given special attention by the Indonesian government.

2. METHODS

This research was conducted at the Class II Special Child Development Institution in Central Lombok, located on Jalan Tojong-ojong, Selebung, Batukliang District, Central Lombok Regency. This research is empirical in nature, using a sociological approach, a case study approach, and a legal approach. In the data collection techniques of this research, the methods used by the researcher to provide data include: Observation, Interviews, Questionnaires, and Literature Study. In this research, in analyzing the data, the author uses qualitative descriptive data analysis by thinking inductively, which involves relating, comparing, and connecting primary data with secondary data obtained from observations, interviews, questionnaires, and document studies, which are then analyzed to achieve the desired data validation that will later be presented in a descriptive narrative document.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The number of children involved in sexual offense cases and undergoing rehabilitation at the Class II Special Child Development Institution in Central Lombok has experienced a cyclical increase each year. To obtain data related to this issue, the researcher distributed questionnaires to 10 (ten) children in rehabilitation involved in sexual offense cases, namely RM, MHH, RF, D, MH, LEDW, MN, HW, LMR, and YD.

Based on the results of the questionnaire completed, the researchers identified factors that underlie the children committing sexual offenses, namely environmental factors, social media factors, parental supervision factors, and educational factors. Meanwhile, based on the interviews conducted by the researcher with the Acting Head of the Assessment and Classification Subsection, the researcher obtained data that the children in care committed the act due to environmental factors, where the environment is the first place a child is formed in terms of mental and attitude, so the condition of the environment will influence the child's behavior.

In criminology theory, specifically the social control theory, it explains that a crime occurs due to the influence of society or the environment itself (Sugiyono, 2020). 2) Second is the influence of social media, where the rapid development of social media and easy access to adult content makes children easily influenced and increases their intention to commit such acts. 3) Thirdly is the factor of lack of parental supervision, which refers to the weak supervision of parents over their children's daily activities, including social interactions, social media control, and other forms of supervision, making it easier for children to engage in such behaviors. This is supported by the results of a questionnaire where some children engaged in these behaviors at home or at the victim's home when the house was quiet due to their parents' work commitments. Next, when the parents come home, they never check the child's gadgets or daily activities, so this neglect sometimes leads the child into such problems.

Adriansah Rasyid (2021) in the journal "A Criminological Review of Child-to-Child Sexual Offenses" is influenced by easily accessible social media factors, poor environmental factors, and lack of parental attention, which allows such crimes to occur (Kasus & Toraja, 2022). Based on the analysis above, the researcher has a similar perception regarding the factors influencing children to commit sexual offenses. The factors affecting children in the above study are similar to those influencing children to commit sexual intercourse offenses. These factors, when linked to the differential association theory, explain that a crime occurs as a result of imitating previous behavior. This is closely related to environmental factors, where the environment serves as a space for learning and observation for children in their social interactions. Therefore, if supervision efforts are not undertaken, it will have a negative impact. Based on the results of the questionnaire, interviews with the children in rehabilitation, and interviews with correctional officers regarding the factors causing children to commit sexual offenses, the influencing factors include:

a. Environmental Factors

Environmental factors, especially a poor environment, are one of the major factors that significantly contribute to children getting involved in sexual offenses. The condition of the environment where the children socialize influences their development and attitudes. In their social interactions, children will naturally feel proud if they can do things beyond what their peers can do, making it a source of pride for them and a sense of deficiency for those who cannot do it. A bad social environment where children play tends to teach them inappropriate behaviors that they should not engage in, such as smoking, drinking alcohol, and actions that lead to sexual offenses.

b. Social Media Factor

Social media indirectly also plays a role in involving children in sexual offenses; in this era of information openness, especially on social media, it is very difficult to filter content that is inappropriate for children. This ease of access then creates a gap for children to view things they should not be watching, such as pornographic videos and other similar content. The consequence of this, in relation to the factors causing children to commit sexual offenses, is that it encourages children to be bolder in attempting such acts. The openness of social media without proper education impacts children by exposing them to adult content, which fuels their intention to try. A strong curiosity drives children to commit sexual offenses without considering the future consequences. From the results of interviews and questionnaires conducted by the researcher, most children dare to engage in sexual acts because the content they see on social media leans towards adult-oriented material, which increases their curiosity. Additionally, the presence of opportunities makes these acts occur frequently.

c. Factor of Lack of Parental Supervision

The rapid development of technology and the times has led to an increasing demand within families, so it is not uncommon for parents to work late into the night to meet those needs. The busyness of parents in earning a living sometimes causes their attention and supervision of their children to be lacking, such as supervision in play environments, social media, or their children's gadgets. This leads to children sometimes interacting and socializing without proper supervision from their parents.

Unsupervised free association allows children to freely do what they desire, with knowledge of sexual intercourse obtained from their social environment, and social media increases their desire to engage in such behavior. Of course, this gives children the opportunity to engage in such activities in their own homes, as the quietness of the house due to parents being at work provides children with the freedom to act without restraint. In interviews and questionnaires conducted by the researcher, it was found that most acts of sexual intercourse were carried out at the perpetrator's or victim's home during quiet times.

Of the three factors mentioned above, according to the researcher, a poor environment is the main factor causing children to engage in sexual offenses. A good environment will teach children good behavior, while a poor environment will also have a negative impact on the development of children's attitudes and behavior.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the explanation above regarding the factors that cause children to commit sexual offenses, namely 1) Environmental factors, 2) Social media factors, and 3) Lack of parental supervision. The environmental factor is the dominant factor in encouraging children to commit sexual offenses because the environment serves as a medium for learning and character formation for children in society. The author's recommendations in this study are, first, the need for education for children to introduce them to the dangers of premarital sex, sexually transmitted diseases, and sexual offenses, and second, the need for socialization and strengthening for parents regarding sexual offenses and efforts to enhance supervision of children's social interactions and social media.

REFERENCES

- Ilmi, R. N., & Najicha, F. U. (2022). Bahaya pemanfaatan media sosial bagi integrasi bangsa di masa pandemi. *De Cive: Jurnal Penelitian Pendidikan Pancasila dan Kewarganegaraan*, 2(4), 135–139. <https://doi.org/10.56393/decive.v2i4.593>
- Kasus, S., & Toraja, T. (2022). Oleh anak terhadap anak: Studi kasus di Kabupaten Tana Toraja.
- Priambada, B. S. (2022). Sosialisasi ancaman pidana bagi penyebar hoax. *Jurnal Pengabdian Pada Masyarakat*, 2(8.5.2017), 2003–2005.
- Sugiyono. (2020). *Metodologi penelitian kuantitatif, kualitatif dan R & D*.
- Undang-Undang Dasar Negara Republik Indonesia Tahun 1945.
- Undang-Undang Nomor 11 Tahun 2012 tentang Sistem Peradilan Pidana Anak.

Undang-Undang Nomor 22 Tahun 2022 tentang Pemasyarakatan.

Undang-Undang Nomor 35 Tahun 2014 tentang Perubahan atas Undang-Undang Nomor 23 Tahun 2002 tentang Perlindungan Anak.