



Victimization of Child Drugs Abuse Victims

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Abstract

Children in drug abuse cases are regarded as victims and potentially victimized subjects. This research describes the involvement of children in drug abuse and the victimization of child victims. This qualitative descriptive research analyzed 2,000 online news articles, focusing on their titles, themes, and contents from January 26 to February 2, 2022. Data analysis was performed through data reduction, description, and inductive interpretation to draw meaningful conclusions. The outcomes of this research reveal a trend: children implicated in drug abuse cases are frequently cast in the roles of users and traffickers. Children suffering from drug abuse are not only battling with the direct consequences of drugs misuse but they also face victimization through intimidation and discrimination by their peers, teachers, and school principals.



A. Introduction

This research focuses on children, defined as individuals under 18 years old, who represent a particularly vulnerable demographic targeted by drug abuse.¹ According to the Public Relations and Protocol Bureau of the National Narcotics Agency (BNN), an alarming number of children—approximately 3.4 million or 82.4% of those involved in drug abuse cases—are caught in the web of substance misuse in various capacities. These roles include 15% of these children being addicted to drugs, 57% experimenting with drug use, 27% using drugs recreationally, a substantial 47.1% acting as dealers, and 31.4% being utilized as couriers.² However, children are often victimized in drug abuse cases, where children are employed as couriers by dealers or forced to consume the drugs. It is necessary to examine the process that often puts children as victims in drug abuse cases.

Drugs are natural, synthetic, or semi-synthetic substances that cause addiction, lower consciousness, and excessive hallucinations.³ Drug abuse has contributed to 471% death rate due to overdose in 15 years.⁴ Drug abuse does not only involve adult individuals as perpetrators but also teenagers as both victims and users of drug abuse⁵. Drug addiction are among modern society's most critical social problems which is caused by familial, environmental, and regulatory factors.⁶

Most research that discuss the involvement of children in drug abuse cases only focused on rehabilitation aspects,⁷ the role of families in prevention,⁸ and the negative consequences of latent harm from drug abuse⁹. Some researchers have tapped on the issues of mental health, sustainability policies, and epidemiology related to drug abuse¹⁰. In general, several studies that

¹ Dawn Edge, “‘It’s Leaflet, Leaflet, Leaflet Then, “See You Later”’: Black Caribbean Women’s Perceptions of Perinatal Mental Health Care,” *The British Journal of General Practice : The Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners* 61, no. 585 (April 2011): 256–62, <https://doi.org/10.3399/bjgp11X567063>.

² HumasBNN, “BNN RI DAN KPAI Cari Solusi Tangani Penyalahgunaan Narkoba Di Lingkungan Remaja,” 2021, <https://bnn.go.id/bersama-kpai-bnn-cari-solusi-tangani-penyalahgunaan-narkoba/>.

³ Jourdan M. Cancienne et al., “Narcotic Use and Total Knee Arthroplasty,” *The Journal of Arthroplasty* 33, no. 1 (January 2018): 113–18, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.arth.2017.08.006>; Luke B. Hartford et al., “The Standardization of Outpatient Procedure (STOP) Narcotics: A Prospective Health Systems Intervention to Reduce Opioid Use in Ambulatory Breast Surgery,” *Annals of Surgical Oncology* 26, no. 10 (October 2019): 3295–3304, <https://doi.org/10.1245/s10434-019-07539-w>.

⁴ Craig Reinerman, “Two Worlds of Drug Consumption in Late Modern Societies,” *Contemporary Sociology: A Journal of Reviews* 39, no. 5 (September 2010): 605–7, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0094306110380384mm>.

⁵ Ghazanfar Rafiee, Jamshid Ahmadi, and Farkhondeh Rafiee, “Prevalence of Substance Abuse (Tobacco, Alcohol, Narcotics and Psychotropic Drugs) and Its Relationship to Family Factors in Pre-University Male Students in Shiraz 2017–2018,” *Journal of Community Health*, 2020, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10900-019-00709-7>.

⁶ Charles F Levinthal, “Drugs, Behavior, and Modern Society, 4th Ed.,” *Drugs, Behavior, and Modern Society, 4th Ed.*, 2005; H.A. Фролова, “Drug-Safe Society as a Determining Factor of the Modern Stage of Social Development of Russia,” *Юридическая Мысль*, no. 4(124) (December 2021): 104–26, <https://doi.org/10.47905/MATGIP.2021.124.4.010>; Reinerman, “Two Worlds of Drug Consumption in Late Modern Societies.”

⁷ Angela Moreland et al., “Types of Child Maltreatment and Child Welfare Involvement among Opioid-Using Mothers Involved in Substance Use Treatment,” *Children and Youth Services Review* 126 (July 2021): 106021, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2021.106021>.

⁸ Moreland et al.

⁹ Richard Alecsander Reichert et al., “Drug Abuse: Classifications, Effects and Risks,” in *Behavior Analysis and Substance Dependence* (Cham: Springer International Publishing, 2021), 3–20, https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-75961-2_1.

¹⁰ Esme Fuller-Thomson et al., “Flourishing Mental Health among Adults with Child Welfare Contact during Childhood: Findings from a Nationally Representative Canadian Survey,” *Psychiatry Research*, no. July 2021 (June 2022): 114660, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.psychres.2022.114660>; Peng Li, “Sustainable Policies for Discouraging Early Childhood Social Competence,” *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 2021,

discuss the involvement of children in drug abuse cases have placed the long-term implications of drug abuse in psychological, sociological, and moral contexts¹¹. Van Dijk further exclaimed the importance of researching into this issue to gain more comprehensive knowledge.¹²

Globally, research on children's involvement in drug abuse cases has largely concentrated on prevention, rehabilitation, and the inherent risks of drug use, leading to a notable gap in comprehensive discussions, particularly regarding the victimization of child victims of drug abuse. This research aims to fill this gap by not only shedding light on how children are involved in drug abuse cases but also by delving into the victimization they endure, thereby reflecting on the effectiveness or shortcomings of societal social systems in protecting these vulnerable individuals. This research responds to the shortcomings of previous studies by also assessing societal attitudes towards child victims of drug abuse, thus offering a more nuanced understanding of the issue and critiquing the community's role in either contributing to or alleviating the victimization of children within the context of drug abuse. This dual focus marks a significant contribution to the discourse, pushing for a critical examination of how societal interventions and attitudes impact the protection and recovery of child victims.

Victimization, within criminology, refers to the recurring harm a victim suffers through criminal acts or violence, further exacerbated by their treatment within the justice system and by society at large.¹³ Christina highlights that this form of victimization also significantly impacts child victims of crimes, both physically and verbally.¹⁴ Often, the individuals closest to the child inflict such harm, adversely affecting the child's emotional and psychological development.¹⁵ This perspective aligns with Edge's definition, categorizing individuals under 18 as children. Savahl emphasizes the particular vulnerability of children aged 8, 10, 12, and 15 to crime¹⁶, affecting them both physically and psychologically within their own environments.¹⁷

Given the insufficient exploration of children's involvement in drug abuse cases, particularly from the perspective of victimization, this research aims to delve into this issue by addressing two pivotal questions: (1) How are children involved in drug abuse cases?; and (2) How do children experience victimization in drug abuse cases? This research intends not only to bridge the gap left by previous studies concerning the participation of children in drug abuse scenarios but also to challenge the prevailing narrative. It posits that children's involvement in such cases does not merely categorize them as perpetrators. Instead, it underscores the notion

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.avb.2021.101701>; Martha J. Ignaszewski, "The Epidemiology of Drug Abuse," *The Journal of Clinical Pharmacology* 61, no. S2 (August 2021), <https://doi.org/10.1002/jcph.1937>.

¹¹ Jeanette Westman et al., "Mortality in Adult Children of Parents with Alcohol Use Disorder: A Nationwide Register Study," *European Journal of Epidemiology*, no. 0123456789 (June 23, 2022), <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10654-022-00883-4>; Meintje van Dijk et al., "Intergenerational Continuity of Crime among Children of Organized Crime Offenders in the Netherlands," *Crime, Law and Social Change* 77, no. 2 (March 2022): 207–27, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10611-021-09970-1>.

¹² van Dijk et al., "Intergenerational Continuity of Crime among Children of Organized Crime Offenders in the Netherlands."

¹³ Matthew Hall, "Counting Crime: Discounting Victims?," *International Review of Victimology* 28, no. 1 (January 2022): 3–32, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0269758021995909>; Stefanny Christina et al., "The Bidirectional Relationships between Peer Victimization and Internalizing Problems in School-Aged Children: An Updated Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis," *Clinical Psychology Review* 85 (April 2021): 101979, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cpr.2021.101979>.

¹⁴ Christina et al., "The Bidirectional Relationships between Peer Victimization and Internalizing Problems in School-Aged Children: An Updated Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis."

¹⁵ Christina et al.

¹⁶ Edge, "'It's Leaflet, Leaflet, Leaflet Then, 'See You Later'': Black Caribbean Women's Perceptions of Perinatal Mental Health Care."

¹⁷ Edge, "'It's Leaflet, Leaflet, Leaflet Then, 'See You Later'': Black Caribbean Women's Perceptions of Perinatal Mental Health Care."

that children often find themselves as victims, reflecting the dysfunction or malfunction within the societal social structure.

This qualitative descriptive research on the victimization of children in drug abuse cases employed a *netnography* method for data collection¹⁸ to analyze 2,000 online news texts sourced using the search term "*Keterlibatan Anak Dalam kasus penyalagunaan narkoba di Indonesia*" (Children's Involvement in Drug Abuse Cases in Indonesia) through the Google search engine. Conducted with a systematic online documentation approach on a personal computer, the research focused on scrutinizing news titles, themes, and content from articles published between January 26 and February 2, 2022. The data, once gathered, was read and then categorized by theme, age, and characteristics of the treatment received by child victims of drug abuse. This process culminated in the creation of a descriptive format data display, organizing selected online news quotes into thematic presentations.

The data analysis technique in this research was carried out through three analytical processes; (1) Data reduction - structuring data in an objective and systematic form; (2) Data presentation - displaying research results in the form of a table containing excerpts from online news summaries; (3) Data verification – the process to conclude data based on trends from existing data. The data also underwent an inductive descriptive analysis to draw interpretation and conclusions.

B Discussion

1. Children's Involvement in Drug Abuse Cases

The involvement of children in drug abuse cases is crucial to understand, particularly in terms of the treatment these children receive, whether as addicts or dealers. Many instances position children in roles of drug users or dealers. This context is further explained in this research findings.

a. Children as Drug Addicts

Table 1. Children as drug addicts

Form	Victims	Case
Addict	Child 10 year old	The first case involving a child as an underage addict occurred in Talang Padang District. The 10-year-old child was suspected of getting drugs from a playmate older than him. "Initially it was free, after being addicted, I just bought it myself." ¹⁹
Addict	Child 10 year old	In Tanggamus District, three children have been addicted to methamphetamine since they were 10 years old or in the 5th grade of elementary school. They obtained the drugs from their game friends. ²⁰
User	Child 10 year old	In North Sumatra, BNN found a 5th-grade elementary school student in Medan Tembung area used methamphetamine. This

¹⁸ Henky Fernando, Yuniar Galuh Larasati, and Syahrul Akmal Latif, "Diseminasi Simbolik : Makna Korupsi Dalam Media Sosial Instagram Symbolic Dissemination : The Meaning of Corruption in Instagram Social Media," *Bricolage: Jurnal Magister Ilmu Komunikasi* 8, no. 1 (2022): 63–78.

¹⁹ Kompas, "Bocah 10 Tahun Kecanduan Narkoba, Berawal Dari Dikasih Gratis Oleh Teman," *Kompas.Com*, 2022.

²⁰ Qhasmal Qhadumi, "Tiga Siswa Sekolah Dasar Kecanduan Sabu, Kenal Narkoba Dari Teman Permainan," *Kupastuntas.Co*, 2020, <https://www.kupastuntas.co/2022/01/26/tiga-siswa-sekolah-dasar-kecanduan-sabu-kenal-narkoba-dari-teman-permainan>.

		elementary school student was caught red-handed by the parents. ²¹
User	Child 10 year old	Drug users and dealers have started to target elementary school students. "In Surabaya, some drug users aged 10, raising huge concern for us. Hence, prevention must be immediately taken to save the generation from drugs." ²²

From **Table 1**, the the involvement of children in drug abuse does not position children as addicts. Children around the age of 10 are often highly susceptible to involvement in drug abuse cases, either as addicts or users. This vulnerability is evident in instances from the Talang Padang sub-district, Tanggamus district, and the Medan Tembung area.

b. Children as Drug Traffickers

Table 2. Children as drug Traffickers

Form	Victims	Case
Dealer	Child 10 year old	In Bogor, a school handed over a 5th-grade elementary school child to us for coaching. This child was a victim or user and even a dealer. ²³
Courier	Child 17 year old	The East Kalimantan Regional Police arrested a suspected drug courier in Samarinda City. The perpetrator with the initials MR brought 2 kilograms of crystal methamphetamine was 17 years old minor ²⁴ .
Courier	Child 15 year old	The South Kalimantan Police revealed a network of drug dealers involving minors as couriers. Suspect RD is 15 years old and involved in a drug trafficking network. ²⁵
Dealer	Child 16 year old	Deputy Head of Semarang Polrestabes AKBP Yuswanto Ardi stated that officers arrested AK (16) who owned methamphetamine as a dealer. ²⁶

Table 2 reveals that a significant number of children are involved in drug abuse cases as dealers or couriers. Children aged 10, 17, 15, and 16 are particularly vulnerable to becoming

²¹ Purwani Diyah Prabandari, "Siswa SD Dan SMP Kedapatan Pakai Narkoba," *Nasional.Tempo*, 2018, <https://nasional.tempo.co/read/557899/siswa-sd-dan-smp-kedapatan-pakai-narkoba>.

²² Yusuf Wibisono, "Bambang DH Sebut Narkoba Mulai Sasar Anak SD Di Surabaya," *Beritajatim.Com*, 2020, <https://beritajatim.com/politik-pemerintahan/bambang-dh-sebut-narkoba-mulai-sasar-anak-sd-di-surabaya/>.

²³ Dede Susianti, "Bocah Kelas 5 SD Jadi Pemakai Dan Pengedar Narkoba," *Media Indonesia*, 2020, <https://mediaindonesia.com/megapolitan/295721/bocah-kelas-5-sd-jadi-pemakai-dan-pengedar-narkoba>.

²⁴ Roy Marisi, "Anak Di Bawah Umur Jadi Kurir Narkoba, Antar Sabu Pakai Kantong Belanja Untuk Kelabui Polisi," *INewsKutai.Id*, 2022, <https://kutai.inews.id/read/91176/anak-di-bawah-umur-jadi-kurir-narkoba-antar-sabu-pakai-kantong-belanja-untuk-kelabui-polisi>.

²⁵ Aky, "Anak Di Bawah Umur Dimanfaatkan Jadi Kurir Narkoba," *Okenews*, 2019, <https://news.okezone.com/read/2019/07/28/340/2084711/anak-di-bawah-umur-dimanfaatkan-jadi-kurir-narkoba>.

²⁶ Holy, "Satu Anak Di Bawah Umur Ditangkap Polrestabes Semarang Karena Jadi Pengedar Narkoba," *Kuasakata.Com*, 2022, <https://kuasakata.com/read/berita/55727-satu-anak-di-bawah-umur-ditangkap-polrestabes-semarang-karena-jadi-pengedar-narkoba>.

involved as couriers or dealers, with documented cases in Bogor, Samarinda in East Kalimantan, Banjarbaru in South Kalimantan, and Semarang in Central Java..

2. Victimization of Children in Drug Abuse

The victimization of children in drug abuse cases is a critical issue to address, necessitating an examination of the attitudes and treatment these child victims receive within their social environments. The extent of victimization faced by child victims of drug abuse is detailed as follows.

a. Victimization and Intimidating Treatment

Table 3. Victimization in the form of intimidating actions

Treatment	Actor	Case
Coercion	Friend	RM 9 years and RR 10 years were brothers who were exploited by a man they had just met. RM and RR repeatedly admitted that the man forced them to smell glue and consume methamphetamine at Cengkareng Sports Center, West Jakarta. ²⁷
Coercion	Dealer	The 13-year-old girl was forced to consume methamphetamine by a drug dealer (IW, 35). The incident was discovered in the raid by Jenggawah Police Criminal Investigation Unit at the house of the methamphetamine drug dealer in Wirowongso Village, Ajung District, Jember, East Java. ²⁸
Force-feeding	Friend	Satpol PP, TNI, and KPPAD Pontianak, West Kalimantan, conducted joint raids through hotels rooms and boarding houses and found 10 underage children on site. From the information of the child who was previously caught in this raid stated that two colleagues were still in the hotel drunk and under the influence of drugs after consuming higher dose. ²⁹
Coercion	Friend	In Tambora, West Jakarta, after enduring repeated torture, 10-year-old Ridho Rhoma has finally found relief. He is no longer subjected to the agony of forced theft or drug consumption.. ³⁰

From **Table 3**, it can be seen that the victimization experienced by children in cases of drug abuse appears in the form of intimidating acts, such as coercion and force-feeding of children to consume drugs. Many of these actions were carried out by friends and even by drug dealers to children such as the cases that happened in Cengkareng, West Jakarta, Jember, East Java, Pontianak, West Kalimantan, and Tambora, West Jakarta.

²⁷ Hasanudin Aco, "Pengakuan Anak Jalanan Di Jakarta, Dipaksa Pakai Narkoba Lalu Disuruh Mencuri," *Tribunnews.Com*, 2020, <https://www.tribunnews.com/metropolitan/2020/11/11/pengakuan-anak-jalanan-di-jakarta-dipaksa-pakai-narkoba-lalu-disuruh-mencuri>.

²⁸ Johannes Mangihot, "Pengedar Narkoba Di Jember Kenalan Dengan Siswi SMP, Diajak Ke Rumah Lalu Dipaksa Konsumsi Sabu," *Kompastv*, 2020, <https://www.kompas.tv/article/123205/pengedar-narkoba-di-jember-kenalan-dengan-siswi-smp-diajak-ke-rumah-lalu-dipaksa-konsumsi-sabu>.

²⁹ Dika Febriawan, "Tak Hanya Dicekoki Ineks, SY Anak Dibawah Umur Yang Diperkosa Juga Dipaksa Gunakan Sabu," *Wartawanpontianak.Com*, 2021, <https://wartapontianak.pikiran-rakyat.com/kalbar/pr-1171491479/tak-hanya-dicekoki-ineks-sy-anak-dibawah-umur-yang-diperkosa-juga-dipaksa-gunakan-sabu>.

³⁰ Yan Yusuf, "Sungguh Kejam, Sudah Dipaksa Nyabu Bocah Ini Disiksa Jika Tidak Mencuri," *Sindonews.Com*, 2020, <https://metro.sindonews.com/read/228458/170/sungguh-kejam-sudah-dipaksa-nyabu-bocah-ini-disiksa-jika-tidak-mencuri-1605093073>.

b. Victimization Practices and Discrimination

Table 4. Revictimization in the form of discriminatory actions

Treatment	Actor	Case
Expelled from school	Principal	A total of six students of SMAN 1 Amuntai, North Hulu Sungai Regency, South Kalimantan, were expelled from school because they were involved in drug cases. The head of SMAN 1 Amuntai, Adiyat Gazali Rahman, in Amuntai, said that the school's policy was to protect other students from being affected by the circulation and use of drugs and illegal drugs ³¹ .
Expelled from school	Teacher	N, a student of a private high school in the Kampung Bali area, Bengkulu City as expelled by the teacher and arrested by the police on January 2022 for consuming marijuana ³² .
Expelled from school	Principal	In the release of the National Narcotics Agency (BNN) Semarang admitted that of the 26 teenagers involved in drug abuse, most of them were students. Even five students dropped out (DO) their school. ³³
Expelled from school	Principal	The National Narcotics Agency's (BNN) Semarang reported at the end of 2020 that out of 26 teenagers implicated in drug abuse, the majority were students. Five of these students were compelled to drop out of school. ³⁴

Table 4 indicates that victimization often manifests as discriminatory actions, including expulsion from school. Such actions are frequently taken by educators, including teachers and principals, against children involved in drug abuse cases. Instances of this include the expulsion of six students from SMAN 1 Amuntai in the North Hulu Sungai District, South Kalimantan, private high school students in Kampung Bali, Bengkulu, students in Semarang, Central Java, and schoolchildren in Banda Aceh.

In general, the findings in this research have shown that the involvement of children in drug abuse cases, in addition to positioning children as drug users and dealers, also shows that these children often get victimized by their social environment. The victimization received by children often appears in the form of intimidation and discrimination from families, teachers, and school principals. Christina³⁵ conceptualized this situation as a condition in which children, as victims of drug abuse, become victims of their social environment, both verbally and non-verbally. Globally, the latent danger of drug abuse also appears in the form of victimization of children as victims, which can significantly impact the psychological, psychological, and quality of life of the victim.³⁶

³¹ Edy, "Enam Pelajar Dikeluarkan Karena Narkoba," *Kalsel.Antaranews.Com*, 2015, <https://kalsel.antaranews.com/berita/24169/enam-pelajar-dikeluarkan-karena-narkoba>.

³² Kompas, "Siswa Di Bengkulu Terkejut, Diusir Guru Saat Masuk Sekolah Karena Kasus Narkoba," *Kompas.Com*, 2022, <https://regional.kompas.com/read/2022/05/24/081735078/siswa-di-bengkulu-terkejut-diusir-guru-saat-masuk-sekolah-karena-kasus?page=all>.

³³ Budi Setyawan, "Di Kendal, 26 Pelajar Kecanduan Narkoba," *Jawa Pos*, 2022, <https://radarsemarang.jawapos.com/berita/jateng/kendal/2020/12/31/di-kendal-26-pelajar-kecanduan-narkoba/>.

³⁴ Afif, "LBH Anak, Temukan 87 Siswa Dikeluarkan Sekolah Karena Hukum," *Merdeka.Com*, 2018, <https://www.merdeka.com/peristiwa/lbh-anak-temukan-87-siswa-dikeluarkan-sekolah-karena-hukum.html>.

³⁵ Christina et al., "The Bidirectional Relationships between Peer Victimization and Internalizing Problems in School-Aged Children: An Updated Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis."

³⁶ Rochelle F. Hanson et al., "The Impact of Crime Victimization on Quality of Life," *Journal of Traumatic Stress*, 2010, <https://doi.org/10.1002/jts.20508>.

The victimization of child victims of drug abuse also indicates that children are often treated as mere objects within the legal and social systems. Frequently, these children are perceived as individuals lacking the autonomy to shape their own futures. As a result, the victimization faced by child victims of drug abuse can significantly impact their growth and development, leading to feelings of uncertainty, inequality, and dependency.³⁷

Comprehensive knowledge within families, communities, and the state is necessary in addressing the position of children as victims of drug abuse. Inadequate knowledge has been linked to higher emergence of victimization of children. Likewise, Fuqua³⁸ also said that families, communities, and the state do not yet have a reflective concept of seeing the involvement of children in drug abuse cases as victims or perpetrators. Consequently, it often triggers wrong attitudes in preventing or dealing with children involved in drug abuse cases. Meanwhile, at the same time, families, communities, and the state are responsible for preventing, protecting, and restoring the condition of children who are the victims of drug abuse.

The issue of children's involvement in drug abuse cases was first prominently addressed by Harmon³⁹, who evaluated the effectiveness of the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program in South Carolina in reducing children's involvement in drug abuse, focusing on the influence of peer environments and the lack of societal social control. However, while existing studies have explored children's involvement in drug abuse, they have not delved into the long-term consequences for children as victims, particularly in terms of the victimization experienced by these child victims of drug abuse.⁴⁰ Therefore, it is crucial to discuss the victimization of children who are victims of drug abuse, as this aspect has profound negative implications for the mental well-being and quality of life of children in the future.

Recognizing the latent dangers of victimization faced by child victims of drug abuse, this research underscores the importance of understanding the role and position of children entangled in drug abuse scenarios. Such comprehension is essential to ensure appropriate attitudes and treatments are applied to mitigate the risk of victimization among child victims of drug abuse. Beyond the support of families and communities, the state's role in enacting regulations is crucial in preventing children's involvement in drug abuse cases, ensuring that the attitudes towards and handling of child victims are aligned with the victims' future needs and interests. This approach is vital in averting the latent risks of victimization for crime victims.

This research introduces novel insights into the dynamics of children as drug users and traffickers, highlighting the victimization they endure in drug abuse contexts. It emphasizes the necessity for awareness and understanding from families, society, and the state regarding the victimization of child victims of drug abuse. Additionally, it examines the impact of environmental factors, peer influence, and societal attitudes.

C Conclusion

This research reveals that children who fall victim to drug abuse not only face intimidation and discrimination from peers, teachers, and school principals but also endure severe forms of victimization, such as expulsion from school. Such treatments contribute negatively to both

³⁷ Charles H. Zeanah and Kathryn L. Humphreys, "Child Abuse and Neglect," *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, 2018, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaac.2018.06.007>.

³⁸ Juliana Fuqua et al., "Transdisciplinary Collaboration as a Basis for Enhancing the Science and Prevention of Substance Use and 'Abuse,'" *Substance Use and Misuse*, 2004, <https://doi.org/10.1081/JA-200033200>.

³⁹ Michele Alicia Harmon, "Reducing the Risk of Drug Involvement Among Early Adolescents: An Evaluation of Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE)," *Evaluation Review*, 1993, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0193841X9301700206>.

⁴⁰ Dante Cicchetti and Elizabeth D. Handley, "Child Maltreatment and the Development of Substance Use and Disorder," *Neurobiology of Stress* 10 (February 2019): 100144, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ynstr.2018.100144>.

their physical and mental development. It is imperative that the treatment and support provided to child victims of drug abuse are tailored to their individual needs, focusing on their happiness and well-being. However, the reality is that these children often experience further victimization from their social environments, which not only increases their psychological burdens but also significantly impacts their future quality of life.

This research highlights the urgent need to reconsider the role of children in drug abuse cases, pointing out the inherent risks they face. It argues for a shift in perspective that would redefine how children are perceived in these situations—not just as passive victims but as individuals with specific needs and rights. This reconceptualization is crucial as it can significantly affect how families, communities, and policymakers view and treat these young victims, emphasizing their rehabilitation and protection. However, the scope of this research is limited to analyzing child victimization in drug abuse incidents based on online media reports without delving into community experiences or perspectives on how children affected by drug abuse are viewed or treated. Future researchers are encouraged to adopt a more holistic approach to fully comprehend the complex dynamics and experiences of child victims of drug abuse.

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