



The Role of the UPTD DP3AP2KB Depok City in Implementing Policies for Handling Cases of Sexual Violence and Abuse Against Children

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Abstract

Children are often vulnerable targets for adult aggression, resulting in various forms of violence including physical abuse, neglect, pornography, psychological abuse, and sexual violence. In Depok City, where such cases occur, the local government provides protection and assistance to child victims through the UPTD PPA DP3AP2KB. This research analyzes the factors hindering policy implementation, effective methods in addressing violence and sexual harassment against children, and the resulting impact on child protection under the UPTD PPA DP3AP2KB's policies. Employing empirical research methods, data were collected through field interviews with resource persons from the UPTD DP3AP2KB of Depok City. Findings reveal that both internal and external factors hinder policy implementation. Additionally, six key service functions represent effective methods for assisting victims. The policy's impact on child protection includes providing psychological support, addressing victims' school-related challenges, and fulfilling families' needs for legal proof. The research concludes that the UPTD PPA DP3AP2KB of Depok City implements its policies on handling violence and sexual abuse against children in accordance with existing regulations.

A. Introduction

A child is defined as an individual who has not reached the age of majority; under Indonesian law, this refers to anyone under 18 years of age. Children hold a vital position within the family and society as the future generation and represent a valuable asset to the nation. Their development and well-being are crucial indicators of a country's progress. Children are not



merely miniature adults; while they possess inherent human dignity, they differ from adults in physical, mental, and social capacities. These differences necessitate special legal protections, particularly against actions that harm their development.

Despite their importance, children are often vulnerable to violence and sexual abuse. During the COVID-19 pandemic, which lasted approximately three years in Indonesia, reports of child abuse and sexual harassment increased significantly, with many incidents occurring within the home and perpetrated by close relatives. The forms of abuse ranged from physical and psychological violence to sexual exploitation, neglect, trafficking, and exposure to pornography. Contributing factors include children's inherently weaker and dependent position, low societal morality among offenders, and insufficient parental awareness and oversight. Research indicates that perpetrators of sexual violence against children are often individuals known to the victims, rather than strangers.¹

In 2024, Indonesian mass media widely reported on the alarming rise in cases of violence and sexual abuse against minors. One particularly concerning case occurred in Depok City, where a member of the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD), identified by the initials RK, was accused of sexually abusing a 15-year-old girl. The alleged incident took place on Friday, September 12, 2024, at 19:30 WIB in a car at a Public Fuel Filling Station (SPBU) in Cimanggis, Depok.²

Violence, particularly when involving children, is a grave violation of human rights. It often includes physical acts that cause injury, suffering, or trauma, carried out with coercion and without the victim's consent. Children subjected to violence and sexual abuse require comprehensive protection measures. In Indonesia, child protection is governed by Law No. 35 of 2014, which amends Law No. 23 of 2002. This legislation affirms that the responsibility for safeguarding children's rights lies with the government, local authorities, communities, families, and parents.

The protection of children's rights is essential, as children must be safeguarded from harm—whether inflicted by others or within their own family environment, directly or indirectly. As future members of society, children require security and comfort, particularly from their parents. However, in practice, many cases of violence against children are still perpetrated by parents.³

To ensure effective child protection, an independent institution is necessary to support the government and regional authorities in monitoring and enforcing child protection measures. Article 74 of Law No. 35 of 2014 on Child Protection mandates the establishment of the Indonesian Child Protection Commission (*Komisi Perlindungan Anak Indonesia/KPAI*) as an independent body to enhance the supervision of children's rights fulfillment.⁴ Furthermore, paragraph (2) of the same article authorizes regional governments to establish Regional Child Protection Commissions or similar institutions to strengthen the implementation and monitoring of child protection at the local level.⁵

Protection refers to the provision of safety, well-being, and peace from all forms of threats. Legal protection, in this context, is the application of laws to ensure children's rights are upheld and that they are shielded from all forms of harm.

¹ Yunan Prasetyo and Thomas Arsil, "Protection of Child Victims of Sexual Violence through Promotive, Preventive, Curative and Rehabilitative Approaches" (2nd International Conference on Indonesian Legal Studies (ICILS 2019), November 2019).

² News available on the website <https://news.detik.com/berita/d-7557693/anggota-dprd-depok-dipolisikan-terkait-alleged-abuse-abg> accessed on September 28, 2024

³ Tegar Sukma Wahyudi and Toto Kushartono, *Legal Protection Of Children's Rights Who Are Victims Of Domestic Violence In Relation to Law Number 35 of 2014 Concerning Amendments to Law Number 23 Of 2002 On Child Protection*, (Journal of Legal Dialectics Vol. 2 No.1), Year 2020

⁴ Darmini Roza and Laurensius Arliman S, *The Role of Local Government in Protecting Children's Rights in Indonesia*, (Journal of Legal Issues, Vol. 47, No. 1), 2018.

⁵ Fajaruddin, *Legal Protection of Child Victims of Pornography*, (Journal of Varia Justicia, Vol. 10, No. 2), 2014

From 2017 to 2023, Depok City consistently received the Child Friendly City (*Kota Layak Anak/KLA*) award with the Nindya predicate from the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (*Kementerian PPPA*)⁶, reflecting its commitment to child protection. However, this recognition does not imply an absence of child-related issues.⁷ According to data from the Regional Technical Implementation Unit (*UPTD*) for Women and Children Protection under the Depok City Office of Women's Empowerment, Child Protection, Population Control, and Family Planning (*DP3AP2KB*), there were 105 reported cases of violence against children between January and September 2024. These included 75 cases of sexual violence, along with other forms of verbal and non-verbal abuse.⁸

This research employs an empirical legal method, which emphasizes the observation of law as it operates in society.⁹ Empirical research, as described by Kartini Kartono (1986: 15–16), involves field-based approaches aimed at understanding real legal phenomena. The research adopts a descriptive qualitative approach to accurately depict legal events and social symptoms related to child protection. Specifically, this research examines the role of the *UPTD PPA* of *DP3AP2KB* Depok City in implementing policies and handling cases of sexual violence and abuse against children.¹⁰

Based on this background, the research is titled: "The Role of the *UPTD DP3AP2KB* Depok City in Implementing Policies for Handling Cases of Sexual Violence and Abuse Against Children."

B. Discussion

UPTD PPA of *DP3AP2KB* Depok City is a technical unit under the local government that supports the governor in executing public functions related to women's empowerment, child protection, population control, and family planning. Its responsibilities include communication, information dissemination, education, data management, and fostering community participation. The agency is also tasked with evaluating and reporting on women's welfare, child rights fulfilment, population management, and family well-being.¹¹

Based on the research background, data were collected through interviews with officials from the *UPTD PPA DP3AP2KB* Depok City. The findings reveal several key issues: regulatory constraints that hinder policy implementation, the effectiveness of current strategies in addressing cases of violence and sexual abuse against children, and the impact of protective measures on child victims. The interviews provided critical insights into the practical challenges and successes in implementing child protection policies at the local level.

1) Factors hindering the implementation of the *UPTD PPA DP3AP2KB* policy in Depok City.

In implementing policies related to the handling of violence and sexual abuse against children, the *UPTD PPA* of *DP3AP2KB* Depok City faces several regulatory and practical challenges. These policies, formulated by the Mayor, are operationalized by the *UPTD* with substantial institutional support, including adequate infrastructure, human resources, and budget allocations from the local government. Despite this internal support, external factors often hinder effective implementation. One significant obstacle arises when victims or their

⁶ News available on the website <https://www.antaranews.com/berita/3648990/kota-depok-raih-award-cities-worth-children-predicate-nindya> accessed on September 28, 2024

⁷ *Ibid*, p. 61.

⁸ News available on the website <http://www.laporsippa.depok.go.id/Home/statistik> accessed on September 28, 2024

⁹ Hilman Hadikusuma, *Methods of Making Working Papers or Theses in Legal Sciences*, (Bandung: Mandar Maju, 2013) p. 58.

¹⁰ *Ibid*, p. 10

¹¹ Lutfi Uzaimah and Isditta Chaula Liani, The Role of DP3AP2KB Central Java in Supporting the Achievement of Family Welfare Family Welfare and Advancing the Rights of Women and Children, (*Wahana Pendidikan Scientific Journal*), June 2024.

families choose not to pursue legal proceedings, opting instead to withdraw reports and reconcile with the perpetrators. Such decisions limit the ability of the *UPTD* to ensure the full resolution and legal accountability in these cases.

2) Data on violence served by *UPTD PPA DP3AP2KB Depok City*

From 2020 to 2023, *UPTD PPA DP3AP2KB Depok City* has specific data on violence reported and served by *UPTD PPA DP3AP2KB Depok City* that occurred to children and women as per the attached data within the last 3 (three) years.

Table 3.1 Data from *UPTD PPA DP3AP2KB Depok City*

a) Violence Against Children

No	Violation's Type	Year			
		2020	2021	2022	2023
1	Exploitation	0	0	1	3
2	Physical	14	13	22	18
3	Custody	8	9	4	15
4	Neglect	0	0	4	6
5	Pornography	1	0	1	3
6	Psychological	19	20	16	16
7	Sexual	71	64	85	71
8	Human Trafficking	3	0	0	0
9	Others	8	1	0	0
Total		124	107	138	132

b) Violence Against Women

No	Violation's Type	Year			
		2020	2021	2022	2023
1	Exploitation	0	0	0	1
2	Physical	7	39	39	38
3	Custody	11	10	6	8
4	Neglect	0	0	13	10
5	Pornography	0	2	0	1
6	Psychological	27	41	47	33
7	Sexual	5	5	14	14
8	Human Trafficking	0	0	0	0
9	Others	29	2	0	1
Total		79	99	119	106

Data Source: *UPTD PPA Office, Depok City, 2024*

The data indicate that cases of violence and sexual abuse against children occur consistently each year. Notably, during the Covid-19 pandemic from 2020 to 2023, there was a significant increase in such cases, with many incidents perpetrated by adults, contributing to a marked rise in reported child abuse.

3) Challenges faced by *UPTD PPA DP3AP2KB Depok City*

Based on information from the resource person, several challenges hinder the effective implementation of policies by the Regional Technical Implementation Unit (*UPTD*) for the Protection of Women and Children in Depok City, particularly in addressing cases of violence and sexual harassment against children. These challenges include:

1. Low Public Awareness and Uneven Outreach: Efforts to raise awareness among victims and their families regarding assistance and legal processes often face resistance. Many victims are reluctant to engage in prolonged procedures, and prevailing traditional mindsets further obstruct the effectiveness of outreach programs. Additionally, the dissemination of information regarding types of violence and reporting mechanisms at the *UPTD* remains uneven, limiting community awareness.

2. Unilateral Withdrawal of Reports: Cases are frequently withdrawn by victims or their families—often without notifying the *UPTD*—due to economic dependence or coercion from the perpetrator's family.

3. Lack of Child-Friendly Law Enforcement: According to the resource person, interactions with law enforcement, particularly at the resort police level, are not always sensitive to children's needs. Victims often experience discomfort and additional trauma during the formal reporting and investigation process (*BAP*).

4. Victims' Fear and Internalized Blame: Encouraging victims to report abuse and identify perpetrators is difficult due to feelings of shame, fear, and internalized guilt. Many victims believe they deserve the abuse or are too afraid of social and familial repercussions to come forward.

4) Implementation in handling cases of violence and sexual harassment at the *UPTD PPA DP3AP2KB* Depok City

Based on the interview findings, effective implementation in handling cases of violence and sexual harassment against children is carried out through a structured and collaborative process. It begins with complaints submitted by the community, particularly from victims or their families. Following this, coordination with various institutions becomes essential—such as the police, hospitals, and complaint referrals from other bodies like the National Commission on Violence Against Women (*Komnas Perempuan*). The next stage involves identifying the case based on its type, the institution's authority, and associated administrative risks. All documents and reports must then be properly registered. Case management proceeds with a series of assessments and the formulation of an integrated plan, which includes the provision of legal assistance, medical support, social rehabilitation, and, importantly, psychological counselling.

5) Role in handling cases of violence and sexual harassment at the *UPTD PPA DP3AP2KB* Depok City

UPTD PPA DP3AP2KB Depok City plays a significant role in addressing cases of violence and sexual harassment against children, as explained by Ms. Dessy, Head of Sub-Department. She explained that the institution's role is guided by Ministerial Regulation Number 2 of 2022 concerning Service Standards for Women and Children. This regulation outlines six key service functions: Community Complaints, Victim Outreach, Case Handling, Temporary Shelter, Mediation, and Victim Assistance. These six functions serve as a structured framework for providing comprehensive support and protection for victims of violence and sexual abuse. Through the implementation of these service functions, the *UPTD PPA* aims to ensure that victims are not left to face their trauma alone and are supported through a process that helps reduce the psychological impact of their experiences.

6) The approach of UPTD PPA DP3AP2KB Depok City in socializing policies to the community

According to the resource person, *UPTD PPA DP3AP2KB* Depok City employs a comprehensive approach in socializing policies related to violence and sexual harassment. This approach involves implementing all established service programs and engaging with sub-district offices across Depok City. Information is then disseminated through the Residents' Associations (*Rukun Warga*) and Neighborhood Associations (*Rukun Tetangga*) to local communities. This decentralized system enables victims of violence and sexual harassment to report cases directly to *UPTD PPA DP3AP2KB* without the need to travel to the National Commission for the Protection of Children (*KPAI*), thereby facilitating easier access to assistance.

7) Effectiveness of the policy of UPTD PPA DP3AP2KB Depok City in protecting children in cases of violence and sexual harassment

Based on the interview, *UPTD PPA DP3AP2KB* Depok City emphasized the institution's role as a manifestation of local government commitment through financial support and empowerment for victims to overcome trauma and resolve their issues. The effectiveness of this role, however, depends not only on *UPTD PPA DP3AP2KB* but also on the collaboration of multiple stakeholders to ensure comprehensive protection of children from violence and sexual harassment in the community

8) Recommendations to improve the effectiveness of handling cases of violence and sexual harassment against children at the UPTD PPA DP3AP2KB Depok City

Based on the resource person's explanation, several recommendations were proposed to enhance the effectiveness of handling violence and sexual harassment cases against children in Depok City, including:

- 1) Enhancing the community outreach program
- 2) Celebrating certain days
- 3) Providing educational programs such as parenting schools, premarital counselling, and elderly schools
- 4) Establishing genre forums at the sub-district level to develop ambassadors who serve as information facilitators for the regional government.

These recommendations aim to strengthen preventive measures and improve child protection efforts in Depok City.

9) The impact of policies on the protection of children as victims of violence and sexual harassment at the UPTD PPA DP3AP2KB, Depok City

The policy implemented by *UPTD PPA DP3AP2KB* Depok City exerts a multifaceted impact on the recovery and well-being of child victims of violence and sexual harassment. A key component is the provision of psychological support, which facilitates trauma recovery and emotional stabilization, thereby preventing long-term mental health issues and promoting resilience. The policy also addresses educational barriers faced by victims, such as stigma-induced absenteeism. To mitigate this, the institution collaborates with schools to raise awareness of the victim's circumstances or provides alternative educational options, including Package A, Package B, or the PKBN program, ensuring uninterrupted learning.

The policy further supports victims' families, acknowledging their critical role in the healing process. It offers guidance to foster constructive attitudes, alongside legal assistance and ongoing psychological care.

1.1 Analysis and Discussion of the Facts on The Implementation of Handling Cases of Violence and Sexual Abuse Against Children with Policies at *UPTD PPA DP3AP2KB* of Depok City

In addressing cases of violence and sexual abuse against children, the *UPTD PPA DP3AP2KB* policy in Depok City employs two primary approaches. The first is a penal policy, which is repressive and imposes legal sanctions on perpetrators post-offense. The second is a non-penal policy, focusing on prevention through education and community awareness prior to the occurrence of criminal acts. According to Barda Nawawi, an effective criminal policy integrates these two approaches synergistically, enabling penal and non-penal measures to operate concurrently with the objective of protecting and promoting community welfare. Chapter III, which details the implementation of handling sexual violence and abuse cases at the Regional Technical Implementation Unit (*UPTD*) for the Protection of Women and Children under the Depok City Office of Women's Empowerment, Child Protection, Population Control, and Family Planning (*DP3AP2KB*), demonstrates this integrated policy approach as follows.

1. Challenges in Policy Implementation at the Regional Technical Implementation Unit (*UPTD*) for the Protection of Women and Children, Depok City Office of Women's Empowerment, Child Protection, Population Control, and Family Planning (*DP3AP2KB*) Regarding Violence and Sexual Abuse Cases Against Children:

1) External Factors

Victims or their families often choose to withdraw reports or reconcile with perpetrators, usually due to familiarity with the offender or reluctance to prolong the conflict. This impedes the full resolution of cases.

2) Internal Factors

A. Promotion of awareness to victims regarding the assistance and protection.

B. Unilateral withdrawal of the report by the victim.

C. The police are not yet child-friendly.

D. Increasing public awareness to report.

For external factors, families and victims should be encouraged to avoid unilateral report withdrawal to ensure completion of services and proper victim support. For internal factors, sustained awareness-raising efforts are necessary to provide comprehensive assistance and protection, ensuring victims receive adequate attention and care.

2. Good implementation in overcoming cases of violence and sexual abuse against children with policies at the Regional Technical Implementation Unit (*UPTD*) for Women and Children Protection of the Depok City Office of Women's Empowerment, Child Protection, Population Control, and Family Planning (*DP3AP2KB*) as follows:

1) Acceptance of Community Complaints

2) Victim Outreach

3) Case Identification

4) Administration and Registration

5) Case Management

6) Intervention Provision

7) Monitoring and Evaluation

8) Termination

Based on the preceding analysis, it can be concluded that effective implementation of policies to address violence and sexual abuse against children at the Regional Technical Implementation Unit (*UPTD*) for the Protection of Women and Children under the Depok City Office of Women's Empowerment, Child Protection, Population Control, and Family Planning

(*DP3AP2KB*) follows procedural flows aligned with Ministerial Regulation No. 11 of 2002 on *UPTD PPA* Service Standards and Ministerial Regulation No. 2 of 2022 on Women and Children Service Standards. The Depok City Government's response to such cases through *UPTD PPA DP3AP2KB* adheres to these established service standards. Furthermore, *UPTD PPA DP3AP2KB* functions as a child protection institution comparable to the Indonesian Child Protection Commission (*KPAI*), with a primary focus on safeguarding children's rights and welfare.

3. The policy implemented by the Regional Technical Implementation Unit (*UPTD*) for the Protection of Women and Children under the Depok City Office of Women's Empowerment, Child Protection, Population Control, and Family Planning (*DP3AP2KB*) has impacted the protection of child victims of violence and sexual harassment in several ways, including:

- 1) Provision of psychological assistance
- 2) Difficulties faced by victims in school
- 3) Family demands formal evidence

From this analysis, it can be concluded that the policy's impact on protecting child victims is reflected in these three key areas: psychological support, educational challenges, and the requirement for evidentiary proof by families.

C. Conclusion

The research findings indicate that the policy implementation by the *UPTD PPA DP3AP2KB* of Depok City concerning violence and sexual harassment against children aligns with the service standards set forth in Ministerial Regulation No. 11 of 2002 on *UPTD PPA* Service Standards and Ministerial Regulation No. 2 of 2022 on Women and Children Service Standards. The *UPTD PPA DP3AP2KB* functions as a child protection agency with duties comparable to those of the Indonesian Child Protection Commission (*KPAI*), focusing primarily on child protection. The research concludes that the *UPTD PPA DP3AP2KB* of Depok City has effectively implemented the policies mandated by the local government, providing appropriate services to children who are victims of violence and sexual harassment in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. However, despite this effective implementation, certain obstacles persist that hinder the full realization of these policies, leading to incomplete service delivery in protecting and managing cases of violence and sexual harassment against children.

D. Suggestion

UPTD PPA DP3AP2KB of Depok City is expected enhance its service delivery to raise community awareness and understanding of child protection, ultimately reducing incidents of violence and sexual harassment against children in the city. Parents are encouraged to report any cases of violence or harassment experienced by their children, as children often disclose such incidents to their parents, making parental vigilance to behavioral changes crucial. The community is also expected to actively participate in safeguarding children from abuse. Additionally, the government should ensure effective oversight and implementation of programs aimed at educating the public and providing comprehensive services to the community in Depok City.

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