



## LEGAL PROTECTION FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE OF MINORS IN WARU ROYOM VILLAGE, DEPOK DISTRICT, CIREBON REGENCY

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### Abstract

**Background.** *The increasing incidence of sexual violence against minors highlights persistent challenges in ensuring effective legal protection for child victims despite Indonesia's comprehensive legal framework.*

**Aims.** *This study examines the implementation of legal protection for child victims of sexual violence in Waru Royom Village, Depok District, Cirebon Regency, identifies the factors influencing its effectiveness, and proposes measures to strengthen victim protection.*

**Methods.** *An empirical juridical approach was employed, combining statutory, case, and sociological analyses. Primary data were collected through interviews with village officials, police investigators, victim-support institutions, and community representatives, while secondary data were obtained from relevant legislation and scholarly literature.*

**Result.** *The findings reveal that legal protection has been initiated through victim assistance, family support, institutional coordination, and legal proceedings. However, its effectiveness remains limited due to weak inter-agency coordination, the failure to apprehend the alleged perpetrator, inadequate psychological rehabilitation services, and insufficient integration of victim protection mechanisms at the village level. These shortcomings create a significant gap between the legal guarantees provided by Law No. 35 of 2014 on Child Protection and Law No. 12 of 2022 on Sexual Violence Crimes and their practical implementation.*

**Conclusion.** *The study concludes that effective protection requires not only comprehensive legislation but also stronger law enforcement, integrated victim recovery services, enhanced institutional capacity at the local level, and sustained collaboration among government agencies, law enforcement authorities, child protection institutions, and the community.*

**Implementation.** *The study contributes to the literature by demonstrating that the principal challenge in protecting child victims lies not in the absence of legal norms but in the ineffective implementation of existing legal provisions.*

**Keywords:** *child protection; sexual violence; legal protection; law enforcement; victim recovery; institutional coordination.*

## 1. Introduction

Children are a mandate and gift of God Almighty who have dignity and human rights that must be protected. As the next generation of the nation, children have the right to be protected from all forms of violence, discrimination, exploitation, and treatment that can hinder their growth and development<sup>1</sup>. One form of violation of children's rights that is still a serious problem is sexual violence against children. Acts of sexual violence not only cause physical suffering, but also have an impact on the psychological, social, and future conditions of the victim<sup>2</sup>. The trauma experienced by the victim often lasts for a long time and affects the development of the victim's personality, education, and ability to live a social life in the future.

Sexual violence against children is a form of crime that is contrary to human values, human rights, and the principle of child protection<sup>3</sup>. This phenomenon does not only occur in urban areas, but has also penetrated rural areas that have been considered to have strong social control. Various factors, such as low public legal awareness, weak environmental supervision, inequality in power relations between perpetrators and victims, and a strong culture of hiding cases in order to maintain the good name of the family, cause cases of sexual violence against children to often go unrevealed or too late to receive proper handling<sup>4</sup>.

As a country of law, Indonesia has provided guarantees for the protection of children through various legal instruments. The protection is regulated in Article 28B paragraph (2) of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia which affirms that every child has the right to survival, growth, development, and the right to be protected from violence and discrimination. The constitutional guarantee was then implemented through various laws and regulations, including Law Number 35 of 2014 concerning Child Protection and Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning the Crime of Sexual Violence<sup>5</sup>. Both regulations provide comprehensive protection to victims, ranging from legal protection, psychological assistance, rehabilitation, restitution, to ensuring a judicial process that is oriented towards the best interests of the child<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Priyambudi et al., "Sexual Violence in Indonesia."

<sup>2</sup> Sigaria, Pello, and Angel Fanggi, "A Review of Legal Protection of Children as Victims of Sexual Violence."

<sup>3</sup> Maya Shulfa and Dame Panjaitan, "A New Paradigm of Child Protection Law from Sexual Violence After the Criminal Code Number 1 of 2023."

<sup>4</sup> Kadek Budi Hartayani, Hartono, and Adnyani, "JURIDICAL ANALYSIS OF LEGAL PROTECTION FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN RAPE CASES (STUDY OF DECISION Number 4/Pid.Sus/Year 2023 SINGARAJA DISTRICT COURT)."

<sup>5</sup> Law 35, "Law Number 35 of 2014 concerning Amendments to Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection."

<sup>6</sup> Law of the Republic of Indonesia, "Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 12 of 2022 concerning the Crime of Sexual Violence."

Normatively, the existence of these various regulations shows that the state has tried to provide maximum protection for children who are victims of sexual violence. However, in practice, the implementation of legal protection for victims still faces various obstacles. Not a few victims have not received optimal access to assistance, experienced social stigma from the surrounding environment, faced limitations in rehabilitation services, and encountered obstacles in the law enforcement process against perpetrators. This condition shows that there is still a difference between the legal norms that govern victim protection and the reality of its implementation in society.

The problem was also found in Waru Royom Village, Depok District, Cirebon Regency. Based on the results of initial interviews with the village government, it is known that there have been cases of sexual violence against minors that have had a serious impact on the victim and his family. Following up on the incident, the village government has taken various initial steps in the form of assistance to victims and their families, providing moral support, and coordination with law enforcement officials. On the other hand, the police have also taken initial action by visiting the house of the suspected perpetrator to carry out a further handling process.

However, these efforts have not yielded optimal results because the suspected perpetrator has fled before he can be secured by law enforcement officials. Furthermore, the handling of the case was handed over to the Cirebon Police as an institution that has the authority to conduct the investigation process and further investigation. However, until this research is carried out, the perpetrator has not been successfully arrested so the law enforcement process against the perpetrator is still ongoing. This condition shows that despite the efforts of protection and coordination between agencies, the effectiveness of legal protection for victims still faces various obstacles, especially in terms of law enforcement and the restoration of victims<sup>7</sup> rights.

Based on these conditions, there is a gap (legal gap) between the legal provisions that provide comprehensive protection guarantees for victims of child sexual violence and the implementation of protection that occurs in the field. The law has regulated various forms of protection and law enforcement mechanisms that must be provided to victims, but in practice there are still obstacles in the form of suboptimal coordination between institutions, limited resources to support victim protection at the village level, and the lack of arrest of perpetrators

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<sup>7</sup> Darussalam, Hamzah Hasan, and Arni, "Protection of Child Victims of Sexual Violence in the Perspective of the Child Protection Law and the Compilation of Islamic Law (Study of Decision Number 1128 Pid.Sus of 2023 Makassar District Court)."

that hinder the realization of legal certainty and a sense of justice for victims. The gap between *das sollen* and *das sein* is an important basis for research.

In addition, this research is also important considering that the village government is the government institution that is closest to the community and has a strategic role in child protection efforts. The village not only functions as the party that receives the initial report, but also plays a role in providing assistance, coordinating with law enforcement officials, and creating a social environment that supports the recovery of victims. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct a study on the extent to which the implementation of legal protection for victims of child sexual violence has been implemented by the village government, police, and related institutions, as well as the factors that affect the success and obstacles in its implementation<sup>8</sup>.

Based on this description, research on legal protection for victims of sexual violence against minors in Waru Royom Village, Depok District, Cirebon Regency is important to be carried out. This research is expected to provide an overview of the implementation of legal protection that has been provided to victims, identify supporting and inhibiting factors in its implementation, and formulate efforts that can be made to increase the effectiveness of legal protection for victims of child sexual violence. Thus, the results of this research are expected to contribute to the development of legal science, especially in the field of child protection, as well as become input for village governments, law enforcement officials, and related parties in realizing more effective and fair child protection.

## **II. Literature Review**

### **Theory Protection**

The protection of children is all efforts to create conditions so that every child can carry out rights and obligations for the development and growth of the child. The theory of protection includes three dimensions: preventive protection, which focuses on actions that aim to prevent children from becoming victims; repressive protection, related to law enforcement and the granting of sanctions to perpetrators; and Rehabilitative protection, which focuses on efforts to recover the psychological and social aspects of children after experiencing violence.

### **Theory in Victimology**

Victimology is a branch of science in the field of criminology that studies victims of crimes, their experiences, and their impacts. They are natural. This concept I aim to

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<sup>8</sup> Pakpahan, Kartina, "J. Mercat."

understand holistically: how evil affects the individual and society overall, and how the justice system's criminal response is appropriate

1. Victim-Centric Perspective: Victimology change focus from perpetrator crime to victim, elevate role, experience, and needs Victim as point central in study crime. ....
2. Understanding Towards Impact Crime: Victimology enriches our understanding of the physical, psychological, and social impacts of crime against victims. This involves research on trauma, stress, loss, and other losses experienced by victims as consequences directly from the act of a criminal.
3. Protection and Justice for Victims: One main goal of victimology is to ensure that the victim is treated fairly in the criminal justice system ... the victim's rights to obtain information, participate in the judicial process, and receive compensation for losses they experienced.
4. Intervention and Recovery: Victimology also highlights the importance of intervention and support for victims after they became a victim of crime. This includes access to mental health support and financial assistance needed to help victims recover from traumatic experiences. i

The concept of victimology provides a foundation that is important for the development of policy and practice in law enforcement and the criminal justice system. I am more friendly to the victim. This not only ensures protection that I am more good for victims crime, but also contribute to The creation legal that is more fair and <sup>9</sup>.

### Theory of Rehabilitation and Rehabilitation Victims

Theory of rehabilitation and recovery of victims departs from the view that the victim is a criminal, not only bearing losses that are physical or material, but also experiencing suffering- psychological and social- that is deep, so Requires attention and handling special legal system. It seeks to restore the condition of the victim so that they can return to live a life that is worthy and dignified, and to function in a non-violent society.

this framework, rehabilitation includes various forms of support, such as health services, psychological assistance, social assistance, and protection and restoration of legal rights for victims guna overcome trauma and the impact I<sup>10</sup> experienced.

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<sup>9</sup>Wedding and Joseph, "JICN: Journal Intellect and Scholar Nusantara Victimology in system radial crime victimology in the THE criminal justice system."

<sup>10</sup>Debra, John, and Banking, "Rehabilitation Trauma Victims Actions Criminal."

### **III. Research Methods**

#### **Type of Research**

The type of research used in this study is empirical legal research with a sociological juridical approach. Empirical legal research is research that examines law as a social phenomenon that occurs in people's lives and looks at how law is implemented and applied in practice. This study not only examines the applicable laws and regulations, but also examines the facts that occur in the field related to the implementation of legal protection for victims of sexual violence against minors.

The sociological juridical approach is used because this study aims to determine the implementation of legal protection for victims of sexual violence against minors in Waru Royom Village, Depok District, Cirebon Regency. This approach is carried out by examining the legal provisions that govern child protection, such as the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, Law Number 35 of 2014 concerning Child Protection, Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning the Crime of Sexual Violence, and other laws and regulations related to victim protection. Furthermore, the legal provisions are analyzed and compared with their implementation in practice through direct field data collection.

Through this empirical legal research, the researcher seeks to obtain a comprehensive picture of the form of legal protection provided to victims of child sexual violence, the factors that support and hinder its implementation, and the efforts that can be made to increase the effectiveness of legal protection for victims of sexual violence against minors in Waru Royom Village, Depok District, Cirebon Regency.

#### **Research Approach**

##### **Approach legislation**

In this research, the study rules that are related to the protection of children as victims of violence and sexual violence are examined. The goal is to understand the basis of law and rules that govern rights as victims and responsibility. The state provides protection. Regulations used include, among others, Law Number 35 of 2014 concerning Protection of Children; Law Number 17 of 2016 as amended into Law Number 12 of 2022 on Criminal Acts and Sexual Violence; and other related criminal laws and regulations. Through this approach, the author is able to see if the rules ii have already given protection to victims in practice.

### **Case Approach**

The approach in the case study is more focused on sexual violence. Through this approach, the author understands how the chronology of events, the role of law enforcement in dealing with cases, and how it provides protection to victims.

### **Sociological Approach**

The sociological approach in research on the Protection of Victims of Sexual Violence in Children. This approach not only examines existing rules but also social and cultural conditions. In this research, the author wants to understand the role of the government in the village, the police, and the institutions related to the protection of victims. At the same time, it identifies what factors become obstacles and what factors become support.

### **Source Material Law**

In this research, source material law was used and consisted of three parts: primary, secondary, and tertiary. Primary legal materials were obtained from regulations and legislation related to the protection of children, as well as criminal acts of sexual violence, including Law Number 35 of 2014 concerning the Protection of Children, Law Number 17 of 2016 as an amendment to the law, Law Number 12 of 2022 about Criminal Acts of Sexual Violence, and the Criminal Code. Furthermore, to strengthen the discussion, the author also uses legal secondary sources from books, journals, and various relevant scientific writings. The author also uses tertiary materials like dictionaries and sources from supporters and others to help understand terms and complete the data.

The informants in this study were selected using the purposive sampling technique, which is the selection of informants based on the consideration that the informant knows and is directly involved in the problem being researched. The informants in this study consisted of: the Head of Waru Royom Village; Waru Royom Village Apparatus; Investigator of the PPA Unit of the Cirebon Police; Families of victims of child sexual violence; community leaders and religious leaders of Waru Royom Village; the Cirebon Regency Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Office;

## **IV. Research Results**

The results presented are data obtained in the field through interviews with several parties who are involved in child sexual violence. I interviewed and gained an understanding that more is needed about the protection given to victims, the role of each

party involved, as well as various obstacles faced in the handling process.

In data collection, I interviewed Village Waru Royom. I interviewed Mr. Wardija on 13 December 2025 to learn about the efforts that have been made in the village government. Furthermore, I also interviewed Police Father Aiptu Umar Iyusup, S. H., as the Head of Sub-Nit 2 IPPA Polresta Cirebon, on 23 January 2026, to get information regarding the handling of cases from within law enforcement. In addition, data from P2TP2A is an institution that plays a role in providing assistance and protection to victims.

The author also obtained the results of the interview and then used them as a basis for discussion and research that this author carried out in a gradual manner since December 2025.

### **Implementation of Legal Protection for Victims of Sexual Violence in Minors in Waru Royom Village, Depok District, Cirebon Regency**

Legal protection for victims of child sexual violence is basically a state obligation as mandated in Article 28B paragraph (2) of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, Law Number 35 of 2014 concerning Child Protection, and Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning Sexual Violence. The regulation requires comprehensive protection, including prevention, handling, assistance, victim recovery, and law enforcement against perpetrators.

Based on the results of the research, the Waru Royom Village government has carried out protection functions in the form of receiving reports, assisting victims and victims' families, and coordinating with law enforcement officials. This step shows the village government's awareness of the importance of child protection as a vulnerable group that needs special attention.

However, when analyzed from the perspective of Philipus M. Hadjon's legal protection theory, legal protection is not only interpreted as an act of assistance, but also includes fulfilling victims' rights to obtain a sense of security, legal certainty, and justice. In the case that occurred in Waru Royom Village, the protection provided still tends to be preventive and social, while repressive protection through law enforcement has not been implemented optimally because the perpetrators have not been successfully arrested.

The fact that the perpetrators have not been arrested shows that the legal goals as stated by Gustav Radbruch, namely justice, utility, and legal certainty, have not been fully realized. From the aspect of justice, the victim has not received a perfect recovery because

the perpetrator has not been held accountable for his actions. From the aspect of legal certainty, the legal process has not reached the stage of resolving the case. Meanwhile, from the aspect of benefits, this condition has the potential to cause concern in the community because the perpetrators are still outside the reach of the law.

In addition, if associated with the Sexual Violence Crime Law, victims should receive broader protection, such as psychological assistance, social rehabilitation, health services, and trauma recovery. However, based on research facts, the protection provided is still dominated by moral support and administrative coordination. This shows that the implementation of legal protection has not fully met the standards of victim protection as mandated by laws and regulations.

Thus, there is a gap between *das sollen* and *das sein*. Normatively, the law has provided comprehensive protection guarantees to victims of child sexual violence, but empirically this protection has not been implemented optimally. This gap can be seen from the lack of optimal fulfillment of victims' rights and the ineffective enforcement of the law against perpetrators. Therefore, the implementation of legal protection for victims of child sexual violence in Waru Royom Village can be said to have been running, but has not reached the level of effectiveness expected by laws and regulations.

Legal protection for children who are victims of sexual violence is a mandate of Law Number 35 of 2014 concerning Child Protection and Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning Crimes of Sexual Violence. Both regulations affirm that victims have the right to protection, assistance, rehabilitation, and access to a fair legal process.

Based on the results of the research, it is known that when there was a case of sexual violence against minors in Waru Royom Village, the village government had taken the first step in providing assistance to the victim and his family. The assistance is carried out through the provision of moral support, advice, and efforts to create a sense of security for victims. In addition, the village government also coordinates with police officers to follow up on the reports received.

On the other hand, the police have taken initial action by visiting the house of the suspected perpetrator for further handling. However, these efforts have not yielded results because the perpetrator has escaped before he can be secured. Furthermore, the handling of the case was handed over to the Cirebon Police to carry out an investigation and investigation process according to its authority.

Based on these facts, the implementation of legal protection for victims has been

carried out in the form of initial protection and inter-agency coordination. However, this protection is not fully optimal because the law enforcement process against the perpetrators has not been carried out optimally due to the perpetrators not being caught. This condition shows that legal protection for victims is not only related to assistance, but also closely related to the success of law enforcement to provide legal certainty and a sense of justice for victims.

## **Factor II: Supporters and Obstacles in the Implementation of Legal Protection for Victims of Sexual Violence against Minors in Waru Royom Village, Depok District, Cirebon Regency**

### **Supporting Factors**

The implementation of legal protection for victims of sexual violence against minors in Waru Royom Village is inseparable from several factors that support the implementation of these protection efforts. These factors indicate the commitment of the village government and law enforcement officials in carrying out the mandate of Law Number 35 of 2014 concerning Child Protection and Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning the Crime of Sexual Violence.

The first supporting factor is the village government's response and concern for the victims. Based on the results of the research, the village government did not ignore the events that occurred, but took initial steps in the form of assistance to the victims and their families and provided moral support. This action shows that the village government has carried out its social protection function as a form of responsibility to the community, especially children as a vulnerable group that needs special protection.

The second supporting factor is the coordination between the village government and the police. In handling cases of sexual violence against children, coordination between institutions is an important aspect because victim protection cannot be done partially. The cooperation established between the village government and the police shows that there is an awareness that child protection is a shared responsibility that requires the involvement of various parties.

The third supporting factor is the existence of regulations that provide a strong legal foundation. Normatively, victims of child sexual violence have obtained protection guarantees through various laws and regulations. The existence of these regulations provides legal legitimacy for village governments, police officers, and related institutions in taking action to protect victims and take action against perpetrators.

The fourth supporting factor is family support for the victim. In the case of sexual violence against children, the family has a strategic position as the party closest to the victim. Family support can help the victim's psychological recovery process while encouraging the victim's courage to obtain justice through available legal mechanisms.

When analyzed using Soerjono Soekanto's theory of legal effectiveness, these supporting factors show that elements of legal substance, law enforcement officials, and community participation have functioned in supporting the implementation of legal protection. However, the existence of these supporting factors has not been fully able to realize effective legal protection because various obstacles still affect the implementation of protection for victims.

### **Inhibiting Factors**

Although there have been various protection efforts, the results of the study show that the implementation of legal protection for victims of sexual violence against minors in Waru Royom Village still faces various obstacles that cause legal protection to not run optimally.

The most dominant obstacle is the lack of arrest of perpetrators of sexual violence. This situation shows that the law enforcement process has not been able to provide legal certainty and a sense of justice for victims. From the perspective of Philipus M. Hadjon's legal protection theory, legal protection is not only realized through assistance to victims, but also through state repressive actions in enforcing the law against perpetrators. When the perpetrator has not been successfully arrested, then the legal protection for the victim cannot be said to be fully implemented.

The next obstacle is the limited authority of the village government in handling criminal acts. The village government only has administrative and social authority, so it cannot carry out investigative or law enforcement actions against the perpetrators. This condition causes the village government to only be able to provide initial protection and must rely on law enforcement officials for further processing. As a result, the effectiveness of legal protection is greatly influenced by the success of law enforcement officials in handling these cases.

In addition, the lack of optimal rehabilitation services and psychological assistance for victims is also a serious obstacle. In fact, the Sexual Violence Crime Law has stipulated that victims have the right to comprehensive recovery, both physically, psychologically, and socially. The fact that the protection provided is still dominated by moral support suggests that the victim's right to a comprehensive remedy has not been fully met.

Another obstacle is the lack of optimal cross-sector coordination in handling victims. The protection of victims of sexual violence should involve various parties, such as the village government, police, social services, health workers, psychologists, and child protection institutions. However, in practice, coordination remains limited, so the protection provided has not been integrated and sustainable.

When analyzed using Soerjono Soekanto's theory of legal effectiveness, the obstacles found reflect problems in law enforcement factors, facilities and infrastructure, and institutional structures. This condition causes laws that normatively have provided comprehensive protection to not be optimally realized in practice.

Thus, there is a gap (legal gap) between the legal provisions that guarantee the protection of victims as a whole and the reality of protection implementation in the field. The law has regulated the rights of victims to obtain protection, assistance, rehabilitation, and legal certainty, but in practice these rights have not been fully fulfilled due to various existing obstacles. Therefore, legal protection for victims of sexual violence against minors in Waru Royom Village can be said to have been implemented, but it has not reached the level of effectiveness expected by the laws and regulations and the legal objectives themselves, namely justice, utility, and legal certainty.

### **Efforts to Increase the Effectiveness of Legal Protection for Victims of Sexual Violence and Children in Waru Royom Village, Depok District, Cirebon Regency**

Based on the results of the study, it was found that legal protection for victims of sexual violence against minors in Waru Royom Village has been carried out through victim assistance, providing moral support to families, and coordination with police officers. However, this protection has not been fully able to realize the legal goals as mandated in Law Number 35 of 2014 concerning Child Protection and Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning the Crime of Sexual Violence. This is evident from the fact that the perpetrators have not been caught, the recovery of victims has not been optimal, and the involvement of various institutions in providing comprehensive protection remains limited.

This condition shows that there is a gap between the aspired law (*das sollen*) and the reality of its implementation in the field (*das sein*). Normatively, the state guarantees that victims have the right to protection, rehabilitation, assistance, rehabilitation, and legal certainty. However, in practice, the protection received by victims is still more oriented towards initial treatment and has not fully touched the aspect of recovery and ensuring

justice for victims. Therefore, strategic steps are needed to increase the effectiveness of legal protection for victims.

The most basic effort is to strengthen the effectiveness of law enforcement against perpetrators of sexual violence. From the perspective of Philipus M. Hadjon's theory of legal protection, legal protection is not only provided in the form of assistance to victims, but is also realized through state repressive actions against lawbreakers. The lack of arrest of the perpetrators shows that the state has not been fully able to provide effective legal protection for victims. As a result, victims have not obtained legal certainty and a sense of justice as the main goal of the criminal justice system. Therefore, law enforcement officials must optimize the process of searching and arresting perpetrators through more intensive coordination with village governments, communities, and related agencies. The success of law enforcement against perpetrators not only serves as a means of punishment, but also as a form of restoring victims' rights and restoring public trust in the law.

In addition to law enforcement, the protection of victims must be directed at fulfilling victims' rights as a whole. So far, the protection provided has still focused on administrative aspects and moral support, while the psychological needs of victims have not been the main concern. In fact, the impact of sexual violence on children not only causes physical injuries, but also psychological trauma that can last in the long term and affect the mental development, education, and social life of the victim. Therefore, local governments and child protection institutions need to ensure the availability of psychological rehabilitation, counseling, social assistance, and health services on an ongoing basis. Victim recovery must be placed as an integral part of legal protection, not just a complement in the case handling process.

The next effort is to strengthen the institutional capacity of the village government in the child protection system. The results of the study show that the village government has made efforts to provide initial protection to victims, but this role is still limited to coordination functions and social assistance. These limitations occur because there is no structured child protection mechanism at the village level. Therefore, the village government needs to establish a village-based child protection system that involves village officials, community leaders, religious leaders, child protection cadres, and other elements of society. The existence of this system will strengthen the village's ability to carry out early detection, early handling, victim assistance, and coordination with authorized institutions.

Furthermore, it is necessary to strengthen cross-sector coordination in handling victims of child sexual violence. One of the weaknesses found in this study is that integration between the village government, police officers, social services, women's empowerment and child protection offices, health workers, and child protection institutions remains limited. As a result, the protection provided to victims tends to run independently and has not been integrated into one sustainable service system. In fact, the protection of children who are victims of sexual violence is a shared responsibility that requires synergy between institutions. Therefore, more systematic coordination is needed through the establishment of a child protection network that can provide integrated legal, psychological, social, and health services.

In addition, increasing the effectiveness of legal protection must also be done through the development of a community legal culture. Based on Soerjono Soekanto's theory of legal effectiveness, the success of the law is not only determined by the substance of the law and law enforcement officials, but also influenced by the legal awareness of the community. In many cases of sexual violence against children, people still tend to view the case as a personal problem or a family disgrace that must be covered. Such a culture causes victims to often lose access to the legal protection they should have. Therefore, continuous legal education is needed regarding children's rights, forms of sexual violence, the importance of case reporting, and the obligation of the community to help protect children from all forms of violence.

If analyzed more deeply, the root of the problem found in this study does not lie solely in weak regulation, but in the suboptimal implementation of the regulation. In other words, the main problem is not the absence of the law, but the ineffective implementation of the law. Therefore, efforts to improve legal protection must be directed at strengthening the implementation of existing legal norms through strict law enforcement, comprehensive victim recovery, strengthening the capacity of village governments, cross-sector coordination, and increasing community legal awareness.

Thus, the effectiveness of legal protection for victims of sexual violence against minors in Waru Royom Village can only be realized if all elements in the legal system work synergistically. Law enforcement that is able to bring justice to victims, recovery that guarantees the future of victims, and the active involvement of village governments and communities are the main prerequisites for realizing child protection as aspired to by the Child Protection Law and the Sexual Violence Crime Law. Without these measures, legal

protection will remain at the normative level and will not be able to provide real benefits to victims.

## **V. CONCLUSION**

The implementation of legal protection for victims of sexual violence against minors in Waru Royom Village has basically been carried out by the village government, police officers, and related parties through the provision of assistance to victims, moral support to victims' families, and coordination in the case handling process. However, the legal protection provided cannot be categorized as effective because it is still limited to social and administrative protection aspects, while substantial legal protection has not been fully realized. The lack of arrest of the perpetrators of sexual violence shows that the state, through law enforcement officials, has not been able to provide legal certainty and a sense of justice optimally for victims. This condition results in the rights of victims as guaranteed in Law Number 35 of 2014 concerning Child Protection and Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning the Crime of Sexual Violence have not been fully fulfilled. Thus, the implementation of legal protection for victims remains at the level of formal protection and has not fully achieved the legal goals of justice, utility, and legal certainty. The implementation of legal protection for victims is supported by the village government's concern, coordination with police officers, support for victims' families, and the existence of regulations that normatively have provided comprehensive protection guarantees for children as victims of sexual crimes. However, these supporting factors have not been able to overcome the various obstacles that arise in practice. The main obstacle is that perpetrators have not been caught, which causes the law enforcement process to not run optimally. In addition, the limited authority of the village government, the lack of optimal rehabilitation and psychological assistance services, and weak cross-sector coordination show that the victim protection system is still partial and not yet integrated. The findings of this study show that the main problem does not lie in the lack of laws and regulations, but in the weak implementation and effectiveness of legal norms. In other words, there is a legal gap between the legal protection guaranteed by laws and regulations and the legal protection that victims receive in practice. As a result, victims have not received full legal protection as aspired to by the national legal system.

Increasing the effectiveness of legal protection for victims of sexual violence against minors must be done through strengthening all components of the legal system, both in

terms of legal substance, legal structure, and legal culture. Law enforcement against perpetrators must be a top priority because the success of arrests and the legal processing of perpetrators is a clear indicator of the presence of legal protection for victims. In addition, village governments need to strengthen their capacity as the frontline of child protection by establishing a village-based child protection system integrated with the police, related agencies, and child protection institutions. Victim recovery must also be placed as an integral part of legal protection through the provision of psychological, social, and health rehabilitation services on an ongoing basis. Furthermore, this study found that the effectiveness of legal protection can only be realized if there is synergy between village governments, law enforcement officials, local governments, child protection institutions, and the community. Without strong coordination and joint commitment, legal protection for victims will remain at the normative level and will not be able to provide real justice for victims.

The main finding of this study is that legal protection for victims of sexual violence against minors in Waru Royom Village has not been constrained by a legal vacuum, but by weak law enforcement gap. Although Indonesia has a comprehensive legal framework in protecting victims of child sexual violence, the effectiveness of legal protection is still hampered by weak law enforcement against perpetrators, limited victim recovery services, and the lack of integration of the child protection system at the village level. Therefore, the main problem that must be fixed is not the formation of new regulations, but the optimization of the implementation of existing regulations so that the goal of child protection can be realized in real terms.

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