

Legal Rights and Protections for Victims of Sexual Violence: A Study of the Role of the Sorong City DP3A

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Abstract: This study aims to analyze the authority of the Sorong City Office for Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (DP3A) in providing protection to victims of sexual violence. Previous studies have generally addressed the protection of victims of sexual violence in general terms but have not specifically examined the implementation of the DP3A's authority regarding prevention, response, and rehabilitation of victims at the local level. **The method used** is empirical research, employing data collection techniques such as interviews, observations, and a review of documentation regarding the implementation of the duties and functions of the Sorong City DP3A. **The novelty** of this study lies in its focus on analyzing the implementation of the Sorong City DP3A's authority in the prevention, handling, and rehabilitation of victims of sexual violence, while also identifying the obstacles faced in its implementation at the local level. **The results** of the study indicate that the Sorong City DP3A has exercised its authority through legal assistance, psychological counseling services, social protection, and prevention programs in the form of public awareness campaigns and advocacy efforts. However, the exercise of these authorities still faces challenges in the form of budget constraints and the lack of safe house facilities in the region. **The conclusion** of this study indicates that the DP3A plays a crucial role in protecting victims of sexual violence; however, strengthening budgetary support, providing supporting facilities, and enhancing interagency coordination are necessary to ensure that victim protection efforts can be carried out more effectively.

Keywords: DP3A Authority; Rights and Protection of Victims; Sexual Violence

Abstrak: Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis kewenangan Dinas Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Perlindungan Anak (DP3A) Kota Sorong dalam memberikan perlindungan terhadap korban kekerasan seksual. Penelitian sebelumnya umumnya membahas perlindungan korban kekerasan seksual secara umum, namun belum secara khusus mengkaji implementasi kewenangan DP3A pada aspek pencegahan, penanganan, dan rehabilitasi korban di tingkat daerah. **Metode** penelitian yang digunakan adalah penelitian empiris dengan teknik pengumpulan data melalui wawancara, observasi, dan studi dokumentasi terhadap pelaksanaan tugas dan fungsi DP3A Kota Sorong. **Kebaruan penelitian** ini terletak pada fokus analisis implementasi kewenangan DP3A Kota Sorong dalam pencegahan, penanganan, dan rehabilitasi korban kekerasan seksual, sekaligus mengidentifikasi hambatan

yang dihadapi dalam pelaksanaannya di tingkat daerah. **Hasil penelitian** menunjukkan bahwa DP3A Kota Sorong telah melaksanakan kewenangannya melalui pendampingan hukum, layanan konseling psikologis, perlindungan sosial, serta program pencegahan berupa sosialisasi dan advokasi kepada masyarakat. Namun, pelaksanaan kewenangan tersebut masih menghadapi kendala berupa keterbatasan anggaran dan belum tersedianya fasilitas rumah aman di daerah. **Kesimpulan** penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa DP3A memiliki peran penting dalam perlindungan korban kekerasan seksual, tetapi diperlukan penguatan dukungan anggaran, penyediaan fasilitas pendukung, dan koordinasi lintas lembaga agar pelaksanaan perlindungan korban dapat berjalan lebih optimal.

Kata kunci: Kewenangan DP3A; Hak dan Perlindungan Korban; Kekerasan Seksual

1. PENDAHULUAN

Authority is a crucial element in the exercise of governmental power. In administrative law, authority is defined as the rights and powers granted by legislation to an institution or official to perform specific functions. Authority serves as the legal basis for an institution to take legal actions or implement public policies. Therefore, every exercise of power by the government must be based on lawful authority in accordance with the principle of the rule of law as stipulated in the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia.¹

In practice, the term "authority" is often equated with "power" or "jurisdiction." However, from a legal perspective, "authority" has a more specific meaning, as it relates to the legal legitimacy granted by laws and regulations to state institutions to carry out specific duties and functions. One way in which local governments exercise their authority is by protecting women and children who are victims of sexual violence through the Office of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (DP3A).²

As a nation governed by the rule of law, Indonesia has a responsibility to protect human rights, including the right to feel safe and to be protected from all forms of violence, as stated in Article 28G, paragraph (1) of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, which declares that every person has the right to protection of their person, family, honor, dignity, and property under their control.³

Every citizen has the right to feel safe and to be free from criminal activity. Examples of abuse include human rights violations and crimes against human dignity. "Every person has the right to protection of their person, family, honor, dignity, and property under their control, as well as the right to a sense of security and protection from the threat of fear of doing or not doing something that constitutes a fundamental right," according to paragraph

¹ "No Title," Rafly Rilandi Puasa, Johnny Lumolos, and Neni Kumayas, "Kewenangan Pemerintah Desa Dalam Peningkatan Perekonomian Di Desa Mahangiang Kecamatan Tagulandang Kabupaten Kepulauan Sitaro," *Jurnal Eksekutif 1*, No. 1 (2018): 3, n.d.

² R Agus Abikusna, "Kewenangan Pemerintah Daerah Dalam Perspektif Undang-Undang Nomor 23 Tahun 2014 Tentang Pemerintahan Daerah," *SOSFILKOM: Jurnal Sosial, Filsafat Dan Komunikasi* 13, no. 01 (2019): 1–15, <https://doi.org/10.32534/jsfk.v13i01.1453>.

³ Dini Zulfiani et al., "Penanganan Kekerasan Terhadap Perempuan Dan Anak Di Provinsi Kalimantan Timur," *Jurnal Administrative Reform* 6, no. 3 (2019): 141, <https://doi.org/10.52239/jar.v6i3.1908>.

(1) of Article 28G of the 1945 Constitution.⁴

To date, sexual violence against women and children remains a significant human rights violation in Indonesia. Victims of sexual violence not only suffer physical pain but also experience long-term trauma, social discrimination, and difficulties in obtaining justice. This situation indicates that legal protections for victims of sexual violence are still not optimal.⁵

In general, the government has enacted various laws, including Law No. 12 of 2022 on Sexual Violence Crimes, Law No. 35 of 2014 on Child Protection, and Regulation of the Minister of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection No. 8 of 2018 on Guidelines for the Establishment of Regional Technical Implementation Units for the Protection of Women and Children, to protect victims of sexual violence. The existence of these laws demonstrates the state's commitment to providing legal protection to women and children who are victims of sexual violence.⁶

However, the implementation of legal protections at the local level still faces various obstacles, particularly regarding the exercise of authority by local institutions in assisting victims of sexual violence. In practice, there are still cases where victims do not receive adequate legal assistance, psychological services remain limited, public awareness of the need to report incidents is low, and coordination among institutions handling sexual violence cases is weak. These conditions indicate a gap between existing legal provisions and their implementation on the ground.

Women and children who are victims of violence usually choose to remain silent or not report the incident out of shame and fear of negative consequences if they do report it. They are also more likely to suppress the events they have experienced, and some members of the public tend to be reluctant to report sudden acts of violence.⁷

Sexual offenses are one of the most common legal issues. Sexual violence, particularly rape, is very common in society. Rape does not only occur in cities, on the streets, or in other places that society considers likely. It can also occur in private settings, such as homes or schools. Worse still, patriarchal beliefs often blame the victim for sexual violence. Sexual violence is not limited to rape; it also includes negative acts such as oppression, coercion, intimidation, or other forms of sexual conduct that cause harm.⁸

In accordance with Regulation of the Minister of Women's Empowerment and Child

⁴ Erly Pangestuti and Ajeng Krisna Pangesti, "Perlindungan Hukum Terhadap Korban Pelecehan Seksual Di Perguruan Tinggi," *Yustitiabelen* 11, no. 1 (2025): 52–64.

⁵ Dimas Gibran Satrio Utomo and Tajul Arifin, "Kekerasan Seksual Pada Perempuan Berdasarkan UU No. 12 Tahun 2022," *Aliansi: Jurnal Hukum, Pendidikan Dan Sosial Humaniora* 1, no. 5 (2024): 42–55, <https://doi.org/10.62383/aliansi.v1i5.376>.

⁶ Siti Nurahlin, "Pelecehan Seksual Secara Verbal (Catcalling) DDalam Undang-Undang Tindak Pidana Kekerasan Seksual," *Jatiswara* 37, no. 3 (2022): 314–23, <https://jatiswara.unram.ac.id/index.php/js/article/view/425/285>.

⁷ Dakwatul Chairah, "Perlindungan Hukum Terhadap Perempuan Dan Anak Korban Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga Di Kabupaten Sidoarjo," *Al-Jinayah Jurnal Hukum Pidana Islam* 5, no. 1 (2019): 153–75, <https://doi.org/10.15642/aj.2019.5.1.153-175>.

⁸ Fara Novanda Fatura, "Telaah Tindak Pidana Pelecehan Seksual Secara Verbal Dalam Hukum Pidana Indonesia," *Recidive: Jurnal Hukum Pidana Dan Penanggulangan Kejahatan* 8, no. 3 (2019): 238–44.

Protection of the Republic of Indonesia No. 8 of 2018 concerning Guidelines for the Establishment of Regional Technical Implementation Units for the Protection of Women and Children and Ministerial Regulation No. 2 of 2022 concerning Service Standards for the Protection of Women and Children, the Department of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection utilizes the Regional Technical Implementation Unit for Women's and Children's Protection (UPTD PPA) to prevent and protect women and children from all forms of violence.⁹

The UPTD PPA provides services such as handling public complaints, victim protection, case management, and shelter, including recovery and psychological services. The UPTD PPA addresses all forms of violence against women and children.¹⁰

Data collected by the Sorong City Office of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection, in collaboration with the Sorong City Police Department, shows that the number of cases of violence against women and children increased from 115 cases in 2023 to 191 cases in 2024. The majority of these cases involved sexual violence and domestic violence against women and children. These data indicate that the rate of sexual violence in Sorong City remains high and requires special attention.

Previous studies on the protection of sexual violence victims have typically focused on overall legal protection, criminal law enforcement, and the factors contributing to sexual violence. However, research specifically examining how the Sorong City Agency for Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (DP3A) safeguards the rights and protection of sexual violence victims remains scarce. Furthermore, previous studies have not conducted a comprehensive examination of how effectively the DP3A utilizes the authority granted by Law No. 12 of 2022 on Criminal Acts of Sexual Violence, along with other implementing regulations. This gap constitutes an area that has not been sufficiently addressed in existing research.

This study is academically significant because it can contribute to research on administrative law and the law on the protection of women and children, particularly regarding how local governments handle victims of sexual violence. Furthermore, this study is practically significant as an evaluation tool for local governments to improve protection services for women and children who are victims of sexual violence.

Based on the above discussion, this study examines the authority of the Sorong City Department of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection in ensuring the rights and protection of victims of sexual violence; the implementation of legal protection provided to women and children who are victims of sexual violence; and the factors that act as barriers to the exercise of this authority. Therefore, the author is interested in conducting a study titled

⁹ Kementerian Hukum et al., "Kemen-Pppa," no. 217 (2022).

¹⁰ Kasmiati et al 2023, "EFEKTIVITAS PENANGANAN KASUS KEKERASAN TERHADAP PEREMPUAN DAN ANAK OLEH DINAS PEMBERDAYAAN PEREMPUAN DAN PERLINDUNGAN ANAK KOTA SORONG Aulia" 32, no. 3 (2021): 167-86.

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2. METHOD

This study employs an empirical legal research method with a descriptive approach. The research data consists of primary data obtained through interviews and observations, as well as secondary data obtained from laws and regulations, books, and journals. Data collection was conducted through interviews, observations, and a literature review. There were three research informants selected using purposive sampling. Data analysis was conducted qualitatively by processing and interpreting the data obtained. Data triangulation was used to ensure the validity of the data.

3. DISCUSSION

3.1. The Authority of the DP3A in Ensuring the Rights and Protection of Victims of Sexual Violence in Sorong City

The Sorong City Government, through the Office of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (DP3A), has the authority to provide legal protection to women and children who are victims of sexual violence. The Regional Technical Implementation Unit for the Protection of Women and Children (UPTD-PPA) is the agency responsible for handling complaints, providing support, facilitating mediation, offering social rehabilitation, and ensuring legal protection for victims.

The Agency for Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (DP3A) is responsible for ensuring the rights and protection of victims of sexual violence. This includes conducting awareness campaigns on the prevention of sexual violence, providing psychological and legal support to victims, and collaborating with relevant parties such as the police and legal institutions to handle cases comprehensively. In addition, the DP3A provides victims with mediation, legal protection, and social rehabilitation, including identity protection and guarantees of physical, mental, and social safety. The DP3A ensures responsive complaint and handling mechanisms and assists victims through the legal process until their social reintegration, with the primary goal of protecting victims' rights and preventing repeat violence through technical implementation units such as the UPTD for Women's and Children's Protection.¹¹

These authorities are supported by regulations and programs that work together to provide maximum protection for women and children who are victims of sexual violence.

According to the results of the researcher's interview with Ms. Mercy Kondolele, Acting Head of the UPTD-DP3A of Sorong City, she stated:

"The mandate of our UPTD-DP3A to guarantee the rights and protection of children is to provide support for the implementation of local government affairs in the field of women and children, as well as to develop and carry out programs and activities for

¹¹ Berliani Heviska, "Peran Dinas Pemberdayaan Perempuan Dan Perlindungan Anak Dalam Pencegahan Pelecehan Seksual Terhadap Anak Di Kabupaten Indragiri Hulu Berdasarkan Undang-Undang Perlindungan Anak Nomor 35 Tahun 2014 Perspektif Fiqh Siyasah," 2024.

the protection of women and children. We do this by conducting prevention efforts through public awareness campaigns and addressing issues by receiving reports, providing support to victims, and helping to resolve their complaints. The UPTD-DP3A was established by the government to provide specialized services for women and children experiencing violence, including sexual violence. We at the UPTD-DP3A guarantee the rights of women and children by providing mediation services and assisting victims so that the issues they face can be resolved and they can experience justice.”¹²

From the perspective of victimology theory, victims of sexual violence are viewed as individuals who suffer physical, psychological, and social harm as a result of the criminal acts they have endured.¹³ Therefore, protecting victims requires more than simply punishing the perpetrators; it must also ensure the victims’ recovery. To protect victims, the UPTD-DP3A provides psychological counseling, identity protection, and legal assistance. This demonstrates that the UPTD-DP3A employs an approach that places the victim at the center of protection efforts.

Furthermore, the authority of the UPTD-DP3A can also be analyzed through the theory of restorative justice. In this theory, case resolution focuses not only on punishing the perpetrator but also on restoring the victim’s well-being, social relationships, and a sense of justice within the community. One example of a restorative approach is the UPTD-DP3A, which offers opportunities for communication and problem-solving while taking the victim’s interests into account. However, in cases of sexual violence, the restorative approach must be used with caution so as not to disregard the victim’s rights or diminish the perpetrator’s responsibility.

Furthermore, from the perspective of criminal justice theory, the UPTD-DP3A is part of the criminal justice system that collaborates with the police, the prosecutor’s office, the courts, and other social institutions. Within this system, the success of victim protection depends heavily on coordination among law enforcement agencies. One type of restorative approach is the UPTD-DP3A, which offers opportunities for communication and conflict resolution while taking the victims’ interests into account. However, in cases of sexual violence, the restorative approach must be used with caution so as not to disregard the victims’ rights or diminish the perpetrators’ accountability.

Research findings indicate that the UPTD-DP3A in Sorong City not only provides administrative services to victims of sexual violence but also plays a strategic role in protecting victims’ rights, improving their well-being, and supporting the criminal justice system. Through the approaches of victimology, restorative justice, and the criminal justice system, it is clear that protection for victims of sexual violence must be comprehensive and

¹² Wawancara dengan Ibu Mercy Kondolele PLT. Kepala UPTD-DP3A Di Kantor DP3A Kota Sorong

¹³ Wahab Aznul Hidayat et al., “Realizing Restitution Justice for Child Victims of Sexual Assault,” *JURNAL USM LAW REVIEW* 7, no. 3 (December 2, 2024): 1484–97, <https://doi.org/10.26623/julr.v7i3.9697>.

justice-oriented, ensuring the victims' physical, psychological, and social recovery.

3.1.1. Prevention of Sexual Violence Against Women and Children

Crimes and human rights violations involving sexual acts committed without the victim's consent or permission are referred to as sexual violence. Sexual violence can take the form of physical acts such as touching, pinching, attempted rape, and sexual penetration. In addition to physical contact, sexual violence can also include verbal or non-physical acts such as threats, intimidation, insults, unwanted sexual advances, and sexually exploitative behavior. Sexual violence is defined as a sexual act committed by force or without consent that causes physical and psychological suffering and degrades the victim's dignity.¹⁴

Compared to previous years, cases of violence against women and children have increased in Sorong City. Sorong City's population is influenced by its status as the capital of Southwestern Papua Province.

According to the results of the researcher's interview with Ms. Mercy Kondolele, Acting Head of the UPTD-DP3A of Sorong City, she stated:

"The number of violent crimes occurring in Sorong City is currently on the rise due to the influx of new residents, and as the population grows, the number of violent crimes is also increasing."¹⁵

Based on the results of the interviews above, the researcher concluded that the increasing number of new residents moving into Sorong City has contributed to a rise in the number of violence cases. The relatively rapid population growth, without adequate facilities, oversight, and enforcement of regulations, has heightened the risk of social problems. This situation ultimately contributes to an increase in the number of violence cases in Sorong City.¹⁶ The author found that from 2022 to 2023, there was an increase in cases of violence against women and children in Sorong City, with 140 cases in 2022 and 93 cases in 2023. Various motives and forms of violence against women and children occur, including physical and sexual violence, abuse, neglect, and even human trafficking. The most common types of violence are physical and sexual violence. The following data show cases of violence against women and children that occurred in Sorong City from 2022 to 2023:

¹⁴ Andhiya Moza Faris et al., "peran dinas pemberdayaan perempuan dan perlindungan anak (dp3a) kota bandung terhadap penyandang disabilitas korban kekerasan seksual" 4, no. 4 (2024): 364–73, <https://doi.org/10.53866/jimi.v4i4.653>.

¹⁵ Wawancara dengan Ibu Mercy Kondolele PLT. Kepala UPTD-DP3A Di Kantor DP3A Kota Sorong

¹⁶ Wahab Aznul Hidayat and Muharuddin Muharuddin, "Penerapan Diversi Undang-Undang No 11 Tahun 2012 Tentang Sistem Peradilan Pidana Anak (Studi Kasus Polres Sorong Kota)," *JUSTISI* 6, no. 2 (July 1, 2020): 52–63, <https://doi.org/10.33506/js.v6i2.965>.

Table 1. Forms of Violence Against Women and Children

No	Forms of Violence	Year		
		2023	2024	2025
1.	Child Abuse	26	81	106
2.	Sexual Intercourse with a Child	27	37	3
3.	Sexual Abuse of Women and Children	22	29	1
4.	Domestic Violence	34	29	50
5.	Sexual Violence	6	15	15
Total		115	191	175

Source: Sorong City Police Department

The data above shows increases and decreases in cases of violence against women and children in Sorong City, including sexual violence. In addition, the Sorong City Office of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (DP3A) compiles data from various other relevant agencies and institutions, such as the police.

Therefore, the number of cases of violence against women and children shown above indicates that several factors, such as aggressive behavior, alcohol or drug use, and prior experiences of violence, can be sources of violence against women and children in Sorong City. Furthermore, family conflicts and a lack of support are significant factors.

Furthermore, gender inequality and ongoing legal violations within certain cultures contribute to the persistence of this violence. Poverty and exposure to sexual content in the media can also increase the risk. Violence is also driven by social pressure, environments that enable harmful behavior, poor family communication, and a lack of knowledge about rights and self-protection. Children and adolescents are particularly vulnerable due to unsupervised use of social media and technology. This violence often recurs due to a lack of support for victims and fear of reporting it. To prevent it, strong cultural, educational, and legal changes are needed.

The data above represents only a small fraction of the cases of violence that frequently occur in Sorong City. As a result, the community is not accustomed to reporting cases of violence to the relevant authorities for investigation. Awareness-raising and advocacy activities can be used to prevent sexual violence. Human rights violations, crimes against human dignity, and discrimination are all forms of violence. Community outreach can help prevent violence, as women and children are particularly vulnerable to it.

Public awareness campaigns can be conducted to prevent violence against women and children. Here are some examples of such campaigns that can be implemented to educate the public on how to address and prevent violence against women and children. As stated by Ms. Mercy Kondolele, Acting Head of the UPTD-DP3A in Sorong City, in an interview with the researcher:

"One way to prevent violence is to educate the public about the dangers of violence and everyone's right to protection and justice. This can be achieved through public awareness campaigns, advocacy, policy development, or the creation of regulations."¹⁷

Based on the results of the interviews above, the researcher concluded that public awareness campaigns are crucial for preventing violence against women and children. These campaigns are necessary to ensure the rights of victims of violence are upheld and to enable the entire community, including village officials, to work together to identify early signs of violence against women and children within social and family settings so that such incidents can be prevented and reported. Efforts to support, protect, and defend an individual, family, community, or society whose rights have been violated or who are in a situation where there is a lack of concern for those in need are known as advocacy. Additionally, advocacy involves informing others about your ideas or raising awareness of important issues, and helping clients facing difficulties to reclaim their rights.¹⁸

According to the results of the researcher's interview with Ms. Mercy Kondolele, Acting Head of the UPTD-DP3A of Sorong City, she stated:

"When it comes to violence, it's not just sexual violence that victims face. There are other forms of violence as well. We usually work together with the police. We at UPTD-DP3A provide support by accompanying victims to the police station, where the police then assist with handling the case. Additionally, at UPTD-DP3A, we offer psychological counseling, but if you need a lawyer with more specialized expertise, we can coordinate with the police, and they can assist you directly."¹⁹

Based on the results of the interviews above, the researcher found that the UPTD-DP3A collaborates with the police to assist victims of violence, including sexual violence. Psychological support provided directly by the UPTD-DP3A and legal assistance provided by the police, including access to attorneys, are part of the support provided. It is hoped that this collaborative approach will provide comprehensive protection and recovery for victims. To drive change, advocacy is carried out in a systematic and organized manner by providing support and defense to vulnerable victims of violence who have suffered injustice and the consequences of flawed policies.

3.1.2. Addressing Sexual Violence Against Women and Children

Services to address cases of violence against women and children are provided by the Sorong City Office of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection, both in person and online. These services include meeting the needs of service recipients in accordance with applicable regulations.

Article 1, Paragraph 1 of Law No. 25 of 2009 on Public Services states that public services are activities or a series of activities aimed at meeting the service needs of every citizen and resident for goods, services, and/or administrative services provided by public

¹⁷ Wawancara dengan Ibu Mercy Kondolele PLT. Kepala UPTD-DP3A Di Kantor DP3A Kota Sorong

¹⁸ Berbasis Perlindungan and Korban Kekerasan, "Kebijakan-Advokasi-Terhadap-Perempuan-Da," n.d., 110-23.

¹⁹ Ibid Ibu Mercy Kondolele

service providers in accordance with laws and regulations. Article 1, Paragraph 6, states that the public consists of all parties, including both citizens and residents, whether as individuals, groups, or legal entities, who benefit from public services, either directly or indirectly.²⁰

According to the results of the researcher's interview with Ms. Mercy Kondolele, Acting Head of the UPTD-DP3A of Sorong City, she stated:

"One of the services provided is through the UPTD (Regional Technical Implementation Unit); victims can go directly to the UPTD to file a report either in person or online, and we at the UPTD-DP3A will receive and follow up on these reports according to the reporter's needs. Victims of violence, whether sexual violence or other forms of violence faced by women and children, can report directly to the UPTD-DP3A at the Complaints Desk, and cases will be classified according to specific criteria."²¹

Based on the results of the interviews above, the researcher concludes that women and children who are victims of violence can report their issues to the Sorong City UPTD-DP3A, the city's central referral agency. This agency has the authority to handle cases in Sorong City in accordance with the complaint service procedures of the UPTD of the Sorong City Department of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection. The sequence of the complaint handling process at the UPTD-DP3A of the Sorong City Department of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection includes: Receipt of Reports/Complaints from the Public; Registration and Documentation of Cases; Verification and Validation of Reports; Follow-up and Case Management; Cross-Sectoral Coordination; Support During Legal Proceedings/Recovery; Case Reporting and Documentation; and finally, Case Closure. Rehabilitation refers to recovery from physical, mental, or psychological issues. Women and children who experience violence are entitled to serious protection and support. The process of physical and mental recovery for victims of violence includes receiving psychological assistance in the event of an emergency (crisis intervention), and victims are taken to shelters, health care facilities, and hospitals.

According to the results of the researcher's interview with Ms. Mercy Kondolele, Acting Head of the UPTD-DP3A of Sorong City, she stated:

"For victims who have experienced violence, including sexual, physical, or psychological abuse, we will provide support tailored to their needs, and if they require psychological assistance, our organization also has a counseling room to support them throughout their recovery process."²²

The results of the interview above show that the Sorong City DP3A offers various rehabilitation programs to victims of violence, including women and children, as well as

²⁰ UU RI, "UU RI No. 25 Tahun 2009 tentang Pelayanan Publik," Lembaran Negara RI Tahun 2009. Sekretariat Negara. Jakarta 2003, no. 1 (2009)

²¹ Wawancara dengan Ibu Mercy Kondolele PLT. Kepala UPTD-DP3A Di Kantor DP3A Kota Sorong

²² Ibid Ibu Mercy Kondolele

victims with special needs. Victims will receive assistance and undergo a recovery process tailored to their needs.

3.2. Challenges Faced by the Sorong City DP3A in Preventing and Addressing Sexual Violence Against Women and Child Victims of Sexual Violence in Sorong City

The Sorong City DP3A still faces various obstacles in preventing and addressing sexual violence against women and children. One of the main obstacles is the suboptimal implementation of Law No. 12 of 2022 on Criminal Acts of Sexual Violence (TPKS Law). Although the TPKS Law provides comprehensive protection for victims, its implementation at the local level is still hampered by limited human resources, budgets, and support facilities for victims.

Furthermore, the DP3A and law enforcement agencies such as the police, the prosecutor's office, and the courts have not yet collaborated effectively. Inter-agency cooperation within the criminal justice system is crucial to ensure that victims are protected and receive justice. However, in reality, the process of assisting and handling cases often faces administrative issues and slow legal proceedings. Another obstacle is the low level of public awareness regarding reporting cases of sexual violence due to feelings of shame, fear, and social stigma. From a victimology perspective, this situation indicates that victims remain in a vulnerable position, both socially and legally. Therefore, the DP3A faces challenges stemming from internal institutional factors as well as from the poor implementation of the TPKS Law, poor coordination with law enforcement agencies, and societal factors.

3.2.1. Prevention of Sexual Violence Against Women and Children

Every job inevitably has its challenges and problems, as is the case with the Sorong City Office of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection. In carrying out its duties and functions, there are many challenges and obstacles that must be properly addressed to ensure that all parties participate in reducing and addressing these issues. As stated by Ms. Mercy Kondolele, Acting Head of the UPTD-DP3A of Sorong City, in an interview with the researcher:

"One obstacle to prevention is the lack of available funding for DP3A programs for matters such as court proceedings, medical examinations, and psychological care, which require significant resources. In addition, some complainants do not appear when we at the UPTD-DP3A issue summonses to follow up on cases because they were absent. Victims who have filed reports but are only halfway through the process sometimes withdraw their complaints because they have reconciled with the perpetrator, as in cases of sexual violence and domestic violence.." ²³

Based on the findings of the interviews above, DP3A faces a number of challenges in preventing and addressing violence against women and children. One of the biggest challenges is a lack of funding, as all operations incur costs, such as building cases of violence through court proceedings and obtaining medical examinations. Many people still

²³ Wawancara dengan Ibu Mercy Kondolele PLT. Kepala UPTD-DP3A Di Kantor DP3A Kota Sorong

do not understand the causes of violence, and many members of the public are reluctant to share their experiences.

3.2.2. Addressing Sexual Violence Against Women and Children

The response to sexual violence against women and children in Indonesia is hampered by a lack of facilities and experts; victims' families often remain silent out of shame; a lack of policy coordination at the local level; a lack of public awareness about sexual violence; and poor data collection and reporting, despite the existence of supportive national programs.²⁴

In handling cases involving victims of violence against women and children, there are various challenges in service delivery and rehabilitation. Victims of sexual violence can report their cases to the UPTD-DP3A. The services for handling cases of violence against women and children at the DP3A comply with standard operating procedures (SOPs). As stated by Ms. Mercy Kondolele, Acting Head of the UPTD-DP3A in Sorong City, during an interview with the researcher:

"Our services for victims of violence follow established guidelines, so if there are obstacles in providing our services, sometimes clients who have already filed a report partway through the process withdraw their report. In addition, there are cases where the accused or the party against whom the complaint was filed fails to appear to resolve the matter, even after the UPTD-DP3A issues a summons to have the accused or the party against whom the complaint was filed appear.." ²⁵

Based on the findings of the interviews, the researchers found that the services provided to women and children who are victims of violence at the DP3A meet standard operating procedures (SOPs). However, victims who file reports sometimes withdraw their reports, and both the complainant and the party being reported sometimes fail to appear to follow through, which causes problems when the report reaches the police.

Obstacles in the rehabilitation of victims of violence during physical recovery are addressed to improve the victims' mental health. As stated in the researcher's interview with Ms. Mercy Kondolele, Acting Head of the UPTD-DP3A in Sorong City:

"As for the challenges in rehabilitating victims of sexual violence, we do not have a safe house, so we have contacted the provincial government to set up a safe house for our victims, where we will eventually place them. As for the rest, everything is proceeding as it should, since professionals in specific fields such as psychology and psychiatry have the expertise and capabilities to address these issues." ²⁶

The interview results indicate that the rehabilitation of victims of violence has been successful in various areas. The researchers found that the DP3A faces challenges in

²⁴ Ayu Wulandari Nur Abadi, Subaidah Ratna Juita, and Muhammad Iftar Aryaputra, "Implementasi Perlindungan Terhadap Anak Korban Kekerasan Seksual Di Dp3a Kota Semarang," *Semarang Law Review (SLR)* 4, no. 1 (2023): 38–50, <https://doi.org/10.26623/slr.v4i1.6582>.

²⁵ Wawancara dengan Ibu Mercy Kondolele PLT. Kepala UPTD-DP3A Di Kantor DP3A Kota Sorong

²⁶ Wawancara dengan Ibu Mercy Kondolele PLT. Kepala UPTD-DP3A Di Kantor DP3A Kota Sorong

rehabilitation because it must collaborate with the provincial government to provide safe housing for victims of violence. As stated in the researchers' interview with Ms. Mercy Kondolele, Acting Head of the UPTD-DP3A in Sorong City:

"Consequently, there are obstacles in the process of handling cases of violence against women and children because such violence is viewed as a family disgrace, as are cases of sexual abuse and domestic violence. As a result, many details are withheld during the trial due to external factors that may not be conducive to public reporting..²⁷

Researchers found that many victims of violence are unwilling to talk about what they have experienced; many people view violence as a source of shame for the family, and sometimes families who have previously reported incidents refuse to do so again.

As demonstrated by direct field observations, the public has not yet realized the importance of addressing cases of violence. All respondents reported having experienced sexual violence themselves, within their families, or against others. More than half of the people they know chose not to report incidents because they were afraid or ashamed of what they had experienced. This may be due to the negative stigma imposed on victims by a society that blames them, leading to violence continuing to be viewed as a family and societal disgrace. Many people in the community do not understand the dynamics of violence. Consequently, the involvement of law enforcement is crucial in protecting the rights of violence victims. To ensure the rights and protection of victims of sexual violence against women and children, the DP3A has carried out prevention, awareness-raising, and advocacy activities. The DP3A is responsible for providing services and rehabilitation to victims of violence against women and children, in accordance with Sorong City Regional Regulation No. 5 of 2022. This regulation establishes the structure, duties, functions, and operational procedures of the Regional Technical Implementation Unit for the Protection of Women and Children (UPTD-PPA) within the Sorong City Department of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the research findings, the Sorong City DP3A has fulfilled its role in ensuring the rights and protection of women and children who are victims of sexual violence through awareness campaigns, counseling, complaint handling, and victim rehabilitation. However, the implementation of legal protection has not been optimal due to ongoing obstacles, including budget constraints, a lack of safe houses, and insufficient coordination with law enforcement agencies in implementing the Law on the Prevention and Eradication of Sexual Violence (TPKS). Therefore, to ensure that victim protection is carried out in an integrated and effective manner, the local government must increase budgetary support, provide safe houses, and enhance cooperation between the DP3A, the police, the prosecutor's office, and other relevant agencies. To raise legal awareness and encourage victims to come forward, further public outreach regarding the TPKS Law is needed. Theoretically, this study

²⁷ Wawancara dengan Ibu Mercy Kondolele PLT. Kepala UPTD-DP3A Di Kantor DP3A Kota Sorong

demonstrates that the protection of sexual violence victims depends not only on law enforcement but also on a victimology-based approach and a criminal justice system that places the victim at the center of the process of protection and restoration of their rights.

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