

# The Interconnected Approach in Mitigating the Escalation of Child Sexual Exploitation in Indonesia: Strategies and Challenges

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## Abstract

The sexual exploitation of children in Indonesia is a serious crime that threatens the fundamental rights of children and their physical, emotional, and mental development. Cases of child sexual exploitation continue to rise, whether in the form of human trafficking, pornography, or sexual abuse, yet the response remains far from optimal. Although regulations and prevention programs are in place, the lack of coordination among law enforcement agencies and the low level of public awareness are major obstacles to resolving these cases. This study employs a qualitative approach using a normative-empirical method, involving an analysis of the legal framework as well as in-depth interviews with legal practitioners and relevant stakeholders. The results indicate that although there is a strong legal foundation, policy implementation is often hindered by bureaucracy, limited human resources, and low legal awareness in society. Additionally, social stigma against victims exacerbates the situation, especially in rural areas. The study recommends an interconnected approach involving substantive law, legal structure, and legal culture as an effective solution to address the escalation of child sexual exploitation. These findings imply the need for improved inter-agency coordination, law enforcement training, and more extensive public awareness campaigns.

**Keywords:** Child Sexual; Escalation; Exploitation; Law Enforcement; Mitigating.

S The sexual exploitation of children is a form of crime that robs children of their fundamental rights and threatens their physical, emotional, and mental development (Pitaksantayothin, 2023). In the context of Indonesia, this phenomenon has become increasingly concerning in recent years, as evidenced by the rising number of reported cases. According to data obtained from various child protection agencies and law enforcement institutions, there is a growing trend in the number of children falling victim to sexual

exploitation, whether in the form of human trafficking, pornography, or sexual abuse.

The importance of integrated intervention in addressing the issue of child sexual exploitation cannot be overstated (Mooney, 2022). A comprehensive approach that involves the three main elements of the legal system—substantive law, legal structure, and legal culture—is essential for providing an effective solution. These three elements must work synergistically to ensure that the handling of child sexual

exploitation is conducted properly and focused on protecting children's rights.

substantive law is a critical aspect that includes the applicable rules and regulations, particularly those related to protecting children from sexual exploitation (de Vries, 2021). Child protection laws and criminal laws related to sexual crimes against children must continue to be strengthened, adapted to current conditions, and effectively enforced. This includes increasing penalties for perpetrators of sexual crimes against children, refining legal definitions related to sexual exploitation, and developing more responsive mechanisms to meet the needs of victims, especially in providing comprehensive rehabilitation services.

Additionally, the legal structure, which consists of various law enforcement agencies such as the police, prosecutors, courts, and other institutions, must also be strengthened through an integrated approach. Strong coordination between these institutions is necessary to ensure that the process of handling child sexual exploitation cases runs smoothly (Ringenberg et al., 2024). Law enforcement officers need to be given specialized training to handle child sexual exploitation cases more sensitively and effectively and to gather evidence in an appropriate manner (Krasteva & Krastev, 2024). This inter-agency synergy should also include cooperation with non-governmental organizations involved in the recovery and protection of child victims.

while, legal culture also plays a crucial role in child protection efforts. Public awareness of the importance of protecting children's rights must be continuously enhanced. This can be achieved through intensive social campaigns and public education, helping the community better understand their vital role in protecting children from sexual exploitation (Wilson, 2020). A strong legal culture will encourage the public to be more active in reporting cases of exploitation and supporting a fair legal process for victims (Tanaya & Puteri, 2023). Moreover, fostering a positive legal culture involves efforts to reduce

the stigma against victims of sexual exploitation and ensure that child victims receive the appropriate support they deserve.

Research on child sexual exploitation has been conducted with various approaches, focusing on risk factors, prevention strategies, and policies that can support the protection of children from this form of exploitation. For instance,, Maxwell (2022) emphasizes the importance of understanding sexual exploitation experienced by boys. He points out that attention to male child victims of sexual exploitation has been minimal compared to female children, even though boys are also a vulnerable group, particularly among street children, refugees, and sexual minorities. This research highlights that harmful gender norms and gaps in policy and intervention lead to inadequate protection for boys. Therefore, he suggests the need for a gender-based, trauma-informed, and violence-informed approach in addressing cases of sexual exploitation of boys, aligning with preventive efforts from adolescence regarding sexually transmitted infections, mental health, and violence.

Additionally, Ilbiz & Kaunert (2023) highlight how the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) has established a strong international legal framework for protecting children from sexual exploitation. Although this convention has provided a solid foundation, they state that sexual exploitation and abuse of children remain serious and evolving issues, particularly with technological advancements, especially through the internet. This study examines legislative developments in various countries and notes that child sexual exploitation has become increasingly complex with the emergence of online exploitation, which often occurs when children are in physically safe environments but remain vulnerable through digital access.

Furthermore, Ma (2020) discusses the rise of online child sexual exploitation (OCSEA). This study emphasizes the importance of cross-disciplinary collaboration in identifying,

tracking, and protecting victims, highlighting that preventing this crime is challenging both in terms of cost and complexity. The research also stresses the need for changes in the digital environment that enable such exploitation to occur, aiming to significantly reduce the prevalence of this crime.

The study by Puzanova et al. (2021) explores how child sexual exploitation material (CSEM) is distributed on Darkweb forums. Using a crime scenario analysis, they outline the processes that perpetrators of this crime go through, from the initial stages to the steps taken after the crime is completed. This study highlights the challenges law enforcement faces in detecting and combating crimes on the Darkweb, providing insights into how interventions can be focused to combat the spread of CSEM.

Alrousan (2024) in his study takes a different approach by exploring the perspectives of adult survivors of commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). This study is based on retrospective interviews with survivors and reveals several key themes related to children's vulnerability to exploitation, such as distrust of healthcare workers and law enforcement, as well as the importance of awareness of sexual exploitation among at-risk children. These findings have implications for the development of better prevention programs.

The main difference lies in the geographic and contextual focus of my research. While most previous studies have taken a global perspective or focused on specific countries such as the United States or Europe, this research seeks to examine the specific strategies and challenges faced in Indonesia. This study also includes prevention strategies in a local context, involving the interaction between the community, government, and other stakeholders in Indonesia.

Although the Convention on the Rights of the Child has been adopted globally, including by Indonesia, child sexual exploitation remains a significant challenge. Unfortunately, the implementation of child protection policies and programs in Indonesia is still limited, leaving

vulnerable children at continued risk of exploitation, especially in an increasingly complex digital context. More specifically, the lack of understanding regarding the vulnerability of boys to sexual exploitation exacerbates the situation, creating a gap in prevention programs that generally focus on girls. This condition indicates that the approach implemented in Indonesia has not yet been able to reach all groups of children who are vulnerable to exploitation.

Furthermore, existing policies are not sufficiently adaptive in facing technological advancements that enable online child sexual exploitation. Online child sexual exploitation is on the rise with technological progress, yet Indonesia has been slow to adjust its prevention strategies accordingly. Although there have been some efforts to combat this crime, these efforts are often not well-coordinated among various stakeholders, including the government, law enforcement, and civil society. This lack of coordination creates a significant gap in Indonesia's ability to prevent and address cases of online child sexual exploitation.

Moreover, the issue of child sexual exploitation in Indonesia is compounded by the lack of effective early detection mechanisms. Indonesia faces limitations in technological infrastructure and human resources, making this challenge even more acute. As a result, many cases of child sexual exploitation go undetected or are addressed too late, leading to irreversible harm to the victims.

Furthermore, although several prevention programs have been implemented, these approaches often fail to consider the experiences and needs of survivors of child sexual exploitation. As noted by Hurst (2021), many survivors feel unheard or do not receive adequate support after experiencing sexual exploitation. In Indonesia, this issue is also prevalent, where child sexual exploitation victims often face social stigma and distrust towards law enforcement and healthcare professionals (De La Hoz, 2021). This indicates a significant gap in

providing post-exploitation support for victims, which ultimately hampers broader recovery and prevention efforts.

his research is crucial and urgent because child sexual exploitation in Indonesia continues to rise, particularly with technological advancements that expand opportunities for perpetrators to operate undetected. Despite various efforts made by the government and related organizations, field evidence shows that existing approaches are not yet effective in addressing the complexity of this issue. A lack of comprehensive understanding of the various factors that contribute to exploitation, both online and offline, is a major barrier to finding sustainable solutions. The findings from this research will provide a strong foundation for developing more holistic and integrated strategies that not only target legal and enforcement aspects but also involve the community, technology, and education in prevention efforts. Therefore, this research makes a significant contribution by addressing the root cause of the problem, which is the lack of a coherent and integrated approach to combating child sexual exploitation in Indonesia.

Thus, this study aims to explore interconnected approaches that can be used to mitigate the escalation of child sexual exploitation in Indonesia, highlighting strategies that have been implemented and the challenges that remain. The primary focus of this research is to identify gaps in policies, coordination, and implementation of existing prevention programs, as well as to propose more effective and adaptive intervention models in response to technological developments. In doing so, the findings of this study are expected to provide relevant and applicable policy recommendations to prevent child sexual exploitation at both national and local levels.

## METHODOLOGY

### Research Design

This study employs a qualitative design with a normative-empirical approach. The qualitative design aims to deeply understand the strategies for mitigating the escalation of child sexual exploitation in Jakarta, Surabaya, Bali, and Palu through an interconnected approach. The normative approach is used to analyze the existing legal framework related to child sexual exploitation, while the empirical approach focuses on the direct experiences of legal practitioners and relevant stakeholders in addressing these cases (Berg, 2001). This design allows for a holistic revelation of the phenomenon, combining regulatory analysis with in-depth interviews of field practitioners.

### Research Material

The subjects of this research consist of various stakeholders relevant to the mitigation of child sexual exploitation. They include law enforcement officers (investigators, prosecutors, and judges) involved in handling child sexual exploitation cases, community leaders and child protection activists engaged in advocacy and victim support, representatives from government agencies such as the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, the House of Representatives (DPR), the Women and Child Protection Agency, and criminal law experts with in-depth knowledge of child sexual exploitation cases in Indonesia. Respondents were selected through purposive sampling to ensure the relevance and depth of the information provided (Canavesi & Minelli, 2022).

### Research Instruments

The primary instrument of this study is semi-structured interviews designed to explore respondents' views and experiences related to the mitigation of child sexual exploitation. These interviews include questions on policy implementation, challenges in law enforcement, and community involvement in prevention efforts. Additionally, relevant legislation, legal case studies, and official reports from the government and child protection agencies were reviewed. These documents were used to supplement empirical data and analyze the legal

framework governing child sexual exploitation. The instruments were validated through internal testing, involving legal experts and qualitative methodology specialists to ensure relevance and consistency in data collection.

#### Research Procedures

The research process is divided into several key stages. The initial phase begins with the collection and analysis of documents, including laws, regulations, and reports related to child sexual exploitation. This is followed by interviews conducted with selected respondents. These interviews were carried out in person to allow flexibility in data collection. Each interview was recorded and transcribed for further analysis. The data obtained from the interviews and documentation were then analyzed thematically. This analysis was conducted by identifying key emerging themes, such as mitigation strategies, implementation challenges, and the involvement of legal actors in the interconnected approach. To ensure the validity of the research findings, triangulation was employed by comparing interview results with documentation data and field observations. This process aimed to provide a more accurate picture of the interconnected mitigation strategies for child sexual exploitation in Indonesia. In the final stage, a focus group discussion (FGD) was conducted, involving experts to confirm initial findings and formulate strategic recommendations. These findings were

then analyzed to develop effective mitigation strategies based on the interconnection between law, social structure, and culture.

## RESULTS

### Implementation of Child Sexual Exploitation Mitigation Policy

The interviews with law enforcement officers and relevant institutions reveal that the policy for mitigating child sexual exploitation in Indonesia has a solid legal foundation through legislation, such as Law No. 35 of 2014 on Child Protection and the Sexual Violence Crime Law (UU TPKS) of 2022. However, its implementation still faces several challenges. Most respondents indicated that the lack of coordination between law enforcement agencies, such as the police, prosecutors, and courts, is one of the main obstacles in ensuring appropriate punishment for perpetrators of child sexual exploitation.

Documentation from the annual report of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights reveals that, during the period from 2019 to 2022, there were 3,457 recorded cases of child sexual exploitation, but only 1,832 of these cases reached the court stage (Figure 1). This indicates issues with the effectiveness of law enforcement and the judiciary system's inability to prosecute all reported cases.

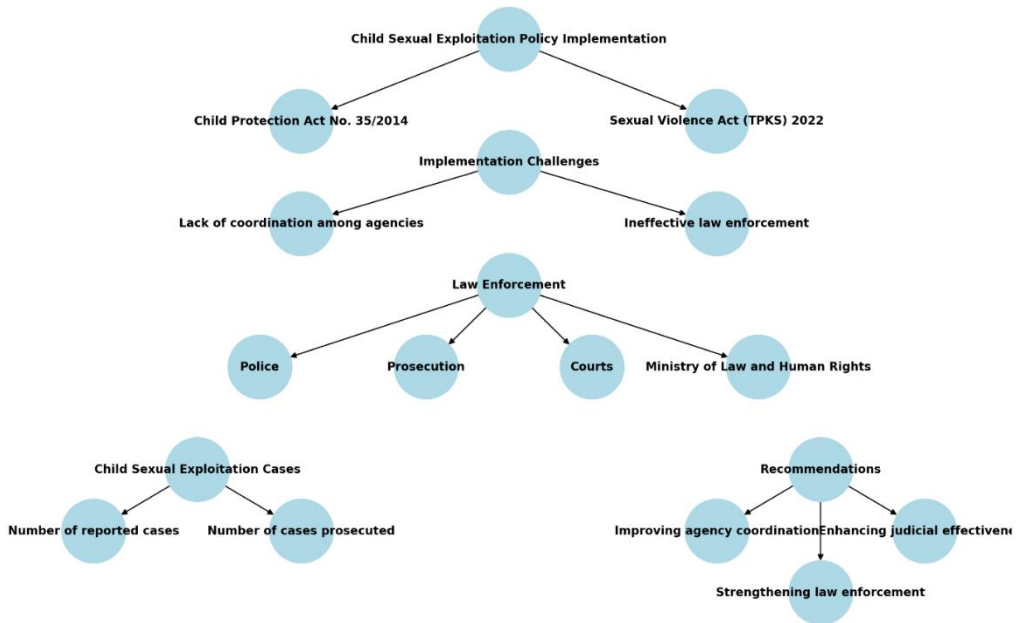


Figure 1 Implementation of Policies to Combat Child Sexual Exploitation in Jakarta, Surabaya, Bali, and Palu

The concept map above illustrates the implementation of child sexual exploitation mitigation policies in Jakarta, Surabaya, Bali, and Palu, organized into several key categories. The implementation of these policies is based on a strong legal foundation, as stipulated in the Child Protection Law No. 35 of 2014 and the Sexual Violence Crime Law (TPKS) of 2022. These laws are designed to protect children from violence and sexual exploitation, as well as to strengthen the prosecution of offenders. Although the policies are well-structured, their execution in the field faces several obstacles that hinder their effectiveness.

One of the main challenges encountered is the lack of coordination among law enforcement agencies. Institutions such as the police, prosecutors, and courts often do not coordinate optimally in handling cases of child sexual exploitation. As a result, many cases are not

properly followed up or do not reach the court stage. Furthermore, law enforcement in Indonesia is often perceived as ineffective. Many reported cases are not processed further or get bogged down in judicial bureaucracy. This indicates that the existing legal system is not yet fully capable of handling all cases that arise.

Additionally, the institutions involved in law enforcement against child sexual exploitation include the police, responsible for initial investigations, the prosecutors who lead the legal proceedings in court, and the judiciary that decides the cases. The Ministry of Law and Human Rights also plays a significant role in overseeing and ensuring that the judicial system functions effectively in dealing with these cases.

The data collected reveals that while there are many reported cases of child sexual exploitation, only a small fraction reach the court stage. This highlights issues within the legal



However, the implementation of this strategy faces several challenges. The primary challenges include a lack of coordination between institutions, limited human resources, and complex bureaucracy, all of which hinder the effectiveness of law enforcement. The inability of the relevant institutions to collaborate effectively often results in inconsistent and delayed law enforcement.

To address these challenges, there is an urgent need to enhance the capacity of law enforcement. This can be achieved through better training for law enforcement officers, increased synergy between various institutions, and improved legal understanding among the officers themselves. By strengthening the capabilities of law enforcers, it is hoped that the legal enforcement strategy can be more effective and efficient.

Moreover, public education is a crucial element of this strategy. Public education aims to raise awareness about children's rights, encourage active community involvement in tackling child sexual exploitation, and strengthen legal awareness among the public. Through

comprehensive education, it is hoped that society will become more aware of this issue and better prepared to take an active role in child protection efforts.

### The Role of Legal Culture in Society in Mitigating Child Sexual Exploitation

Interviews with community leaders and child protection activists reveal that the legal culture in society, particularly in rural areas, still views child sexual exploitation as a taboo subject to discuss openly. This results in many cases going unreported, worsening the overall handling of the issue. From 10 interviews conducted with community leaders in East Kalimantan and Central Kalimantan, 70% of respondents admitted that many cases are not reported due to social pressure and the family's sense of shame.

As one respondent, a religious leader from Central Kalimantan, stated, "People here tend to cover up these cases out of shame; they prefer not to report them to the authorities." This data highlights the urgent need to raise public awareness and education to address this issue effectively.

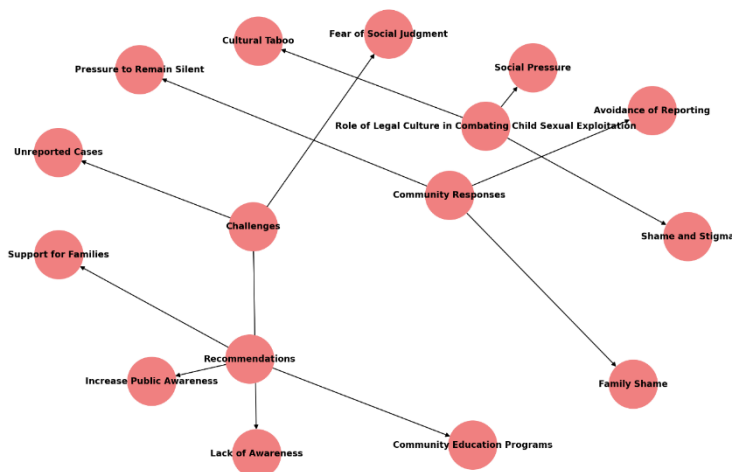


Figure 3 Role Of Legal Culture In Combating Child Sexual Exploitation in Jakarta, Surabaya, Bali, and Palu

The visualization above illustrates the role of legal culture in society in addressing child sexual exploitation through a more dynamic and organized layout. In this visualization, the strategy for tackling child sexual exploitation is influenced by the legal culture, particularly in rural areas. The societal legal culture still views child sexual exploitation as a taboo topic that is difficult to discuss openly, leading to many cases going unreported. This creates social pressure for the victims' families, where shame and stigma often prevent them from seeking help or reporting the incidents to the authorities.

The main challenge is that many cases go unreported due to a lack of public awareness about children's rights and the consequences of sexual exploitation. Additionally, fear of negative social judgment causes people to hide these cases rather than report them. The community's response to this issue includes avoiding reporting, feeling pressured to remain silent, and attempting to resolve the matter within the family due to a strong sense of shame. This indicates the need for interventions in the form of public awareness-raising and education regarding child sexual exploitation. As a step to address this problem, it is recommended to implement more comprehensive educational programs and increase public awareness about children's rights. Moreover, providing support for the victims' families is crucial to help them overcome the social and cultural pressures that prevent them from reporting cases of child sexual exploitation.

Overall, this visualization highlights the relationship between societal legal culture, the challenges faced in law enforcement, and the proposed solutions to address child sexual exploitation. The more dynamic visual arrangement helps clarify the connections between elements and makes the image more engaging to view. This structure allows for a clearer understanding of how legal culture impacts both the barriers to reporting cases and the potential interventions needed to enhance the effectiveness of child protection efforts.

Analysis of the Impact of Ultimum Remidium and Premium Remidium Strategies

The research findings also suggest that the ultimum remidium and premium remidium approaches in addressing child sexual exploitation hold great potential for implementation, but their current application remains limited. For instance, the premium remidium policy, which prioritizes prevention and public education, has only been introduced in a few major cities like Jakarta and Surabaya. Meanwhile, ultimum remidium, or the application of strict sanctions as a last resort, has not yet proven to have a significant deterrent effect on offenders.

Data from the South Jakarta District Attorney's Office shows that, out of 50 cases brought to trial in 2021, only 10% of offenders received the maximum sentence in accordance with the provisions of the Sexual Violence Crime Law (UU TPKS). Prosecutor respondents indicated that this leniency in sentencing was caused by various factors, including political interference and insufficient evidence.



Figure 4 Impact of Ultimum Remidium and Premium Remidium Strategies in Jakarta, Surabaya, Bali, and Palu

The visualization above illustrates the impact analysis of the Ultimum Remidium and Premium Remidium strategies in combating child sexual exploitation. In these strategies, Ultimum Remidium refers to the application of strict sanctions as a last resort in dealing with

offenders, while Premium Remidium focuses on prevention efforts through community education. Research indicates that although both approaches have great potential, their implementation remains limited.

The Premium Remidium approach, which emphasizes prevention through education and community programs, has been applied in several major cities such as Jakarta and Surabaya. However, the implementation of this strategy has not been extended to other regions, limiting its overall impact. On the other hand, Ultimum Remidium, which focuses on law enforcement with strict punishments for offenders, has not yet resulted in a significant deterrent effect. Data from the South Jakarta District Attorney's Office shows that only 10% of offenders received the maximum sentence, indicating weak law enforcement.

Key challenges in implementing these strategies include limited field application, weak deterrent effects due to lenient sentences, political interference, and a lack of strong evidence in legal proceedings. These factors contribute to offenders not receiving adequate punishment, worsening the handling of cases.

To improve the situation, several recommendations from the research include expanding public education programs, strengthening legal sanctions to create a stronger deterrent effect, and enhancing support for gathering robust evidence to strengthen the legal process. This visualization highlights the relationship between challenges, field implementation, and proposed recommendations to improve the strategies for combating child sexual exploitation in Indonesia.

## DISCUSSION

This research supports the conclusions drawn by Halford & Davies (2021), who stated that coordination among stakeholders is one of the biggest barriers to preventing child sexual exploitation. However, this study provides a new contribution by delving deeper into the context

of Indonesia, where the coordination issue is exacerbated by slow bureaucratic complexity, a lack of inter-agency integration, and the limited resources of the relevant institutions (Steel et al., 2023). These limitations include a lack of supporting technology and insufficient human resource capacity, both in terms of skills and the number of personnel required to effectively handle cases of child sexual exploitation.

Moreover, this research reveals how these resource limitations impact the ability of related institutions to follow up on reported cases and provide comprehensive protection to victims. Therefore, this study not only expands the understanding of the challenges in policy implementation but also provides a clearer picture of the structural issues that need to be addressed to enhance efforts in preventing and combating child sexual exploitation in Indonesia.

This research also questions the existing understanding of the effectiveness of law enforcement approaches in addressing child sexual exploitation. As pointed out by Ullah et al. (2024), law enforcement often lags in responding to the dynamics of technological development, particularly in relation to online child sexual exploitation. However, this study highlights that the obstacles are not limited to technological aspects alone but also include weaknesses in cross-agency coordination and the lack of specialized training for law enforcement officers in handling child sexual exploitation cases, both online and offline.

These findings underscore the need for a more comprehensive and interconnected approach, where law enforcement efforts do not only focus on the application of technology but also emphasize closer collaboration between key elements of the legal system, namely substantive law, legal structure, and legal culture. In the context of Indonesia, this research shows that poor coordination among relevant institutions, coupled with the low capacity of law enforcement, weakens the effectiveness of the policies that have been implemented.

This study also reveals that low public awareness, particularly in rural areas, exacerbates the situation of child sexual exploitation. These findings align with the research of Kloess et al. (2019) which shows that social stigma often serves as a major barrier to reporting cases of sexual exploitation. In Indonesia, this research highlights that this stigma is compounded by the public's low understanding of children's rights and the urgency of protecting them from various forms of exploitation, both physical and sexual.

In the Indonesian context, particularly in remote rural areas, communities tend to be less informed about existing legal protections and are often unaware that sexual exploitation of children is a serious violation that requires legal intervention. This study deepens the understanding of how social stigma, combined with a lack of public awareness, creates structural barriers that hinder the handling of child sexual exploitation cases.

Furthermore, these findings indicate that interventions relying solely on a law enforcement approach, without being complemented by efforts to raise public awareness, will not be sufficiently effective. Therefore, this study recommends the importance of launching more extensive awareness campaigns and continuous public education. The focus should primarily be directed at areas that are less reached by government programs, where information regarding children's rights and legal obligations is often lacking.

This public education should include not only knowledge about children's rights and sexual exploitation but also how the community can actively participate in reporting and preventing such cases. In doing so, this research urges the government and non-governmental organizations to design more comprehensive programs that involve community-based campaigns and strengthen local capacity in protecting children from sexual exploitation.

Theoretically, the results of this study support the ideas of Christensen et al. (2021) on the concept of habitus and social capital, which highlight how social structures, including legal culture and societal habits, influence the response to child sexual exploitation. Habitus, in their understanding, refers to the mindset, actions, and dispositions shaped by an individual's experiences and social environment. In the context of this research, the habitus of Indonesian society, particularly in rural areas, still views sexual exploitation as a taboo and sensitive topic. This creates significant social barriers, where many cases of child sexual exploitation go unreported due to fear of stigma or discomfort in discussing the issue openly.

The lack of case reports directly impacts the insufficient intervention by law enforcement, which ultimately exacerbates the cycle of exploitation. According to Christensen et al., social capital—such as social networks, norms, and trust within a community—can either support or hinder social change. In this context, social capital that supports the practice of silence or neglect toward child sexual exploitation becomes one of the greatest challenges that must be addressed.

This research indicates that to tackle these challenges, changing the habitus of society is a key factor. Efforts to change this habitus require structured and sustained intervention through education and social campaigns (Querol & Lerner, 2024). Comprehensive public education, especially in areas that tend to be more conservative and closed off to sensitive issues, is urgently needed to raise awareness about the importance of child protection (Christensen & Woods, 2024). Additionally, social campaigns involving community leaders, religious figures, and local educators will help reinforce the message that child sexual exploitation is a serious issue that must be addressed openly and swiftly.

The main contribution of this research is providing a solid foundation for the development of more interconnected and sustainable strategies

to prevent child sexual exploitation. One of the recommendations produced is the need for sharper regulatory reforms, which not only focus on law enforcement but also include aspects such as improving human resource capacity, technology, and specialized training for the relevant authorities.

In addition, enhancing coordination among law enforcement agencies and other stakeholders is strongly emphasized as a crucial element. This research proposes the establishment of a more synergistic and integrative coordination mechanism, where each institution can effectively collaborate in handling cases of child sexual exploitation, both at the national and regional levels.

Equally important, this study also stresses the need for a transformation of legal culture within society. This transformation can be realized through sustained public education and extensive social campaigns, particularly in rural areas and underserved communities. These campaigns should be designed to change the societal habitus that still views sexual exploitation as a taboo topic, as well as to raise awareness about the importance of protecting children and reporting cases of sexual violence.

## CONCLUSION

The conclusion of this research indicates that child sexual exploitation in Indonesia remains a serious issue that has not been effectively addressed, despite the strong legal foundation provided by the Child Protection Act and the Sexual Violence Crimes Act (UU TPKS). The findings reveal that the lack of coordination among law enforcement agencies, limited human resources, and weak legal awareness in society

are the main obstacles in the implementation of related policies. Additionally, low public awareness and social stigma exacerbate the situation, particularly in rural areas. An interconnected approach involving substantive law, legal structure, and legal culture is essential in addressing this issue. This study emphasizes the importance of improvements in all these aspects to more effectively mitigate the escalation of child sexual exploitation.

The findings of this research are valuable both theoretically and practically in the field of law. Theoretically, this research enriches the literature on child sexual exploitation by emphasizing the importance of an interconnected approach that includes cross-agency collaboration and the role of legal culture in handling exploitation cases. Practically, these findings can serve as a reference for the government and law enforcement in improving policies, prevention strategies, and related law enforcement. However, this study has limitations, particularly regarding the limited geographical scope and challenges in obtaining more in-depth data from rural areas. For future research, it is recommended to conduct further studies that cover a broader area and focus on developing technology-based prevention strategies to address the challenges of child sexual exploitation in the digital era.

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