



Mitigation Sexual Violence Against Children in Aceh

Yuni Roslaili

Universitas Islam Negeri Ar-Raniry Banda Aceh, Indonesia
yuni.roslaili@ar-raniry.ac.id

Marina Ulfah

Universitas Islam Negeri Ar-Raniry Banda Aceh, Indonesia
marina.ulfah@ar-raniry.ac.id

Suparwany

Institut Agama Islam Negeri Langsa, Indonesia
suparwany@iainlangsa.ac.id

Muhammad Muzaky

Universitas Islam Negeri Ar-Raniry Banda Aceh, Indonesia
220104061@student.ar-raniry.ac.id

Siti Aisyah

Universitas Islam Negeri Ar-Raniry Banda Aceh, Indonesia
staisyah785@gmail.com

Abstract

Although Aceh had issued a number of regulations concerning sexual violence against children, the trend of sexual abuse in Aceh has tended to increase annually. This article investigated the Aceh government's response to child sexual abuse cases through the Banda Aceh Municipal UPTD PPA as instructed by Qanun No. 9/2019. This article relied on qualitative research, using case studies and in-depth interviews about the Aceh sexual violence victims' treatment from their advocates at the UPTD PPA office in Banda Aceh. The interviews were intended to analyse the implementation of Qanun No. 9/2019 on the Implementation of Response to Violence against Women and Children in Aceh. This study concluded that the implementation of Aceh Qanun number 9 of 2019 concerning the organizing and addressing violence against children had not been well carried out and had not yet been efficient. It was evidence that although Aceh had passed a number of regulations on the prevention of sexual violence against children, including Qanun Aceh number 9 of 2019, the local government had not yet issued technical guidelines for implementation; therefore, relevant agencies currently not working collaboratively in dealing with children's sexual abuse cases in Aceh and remained working in a sectoral manner. In addition, the community and parents were less motivated to report cases of sexual abuse that occurred in their environment because it was seen as a disgrace. In addition, child victims often experience mental decline, thereby making it difficult to obtain information about what had happened to them.

Keywords: Implementation, sexual violence, children, Aceh.

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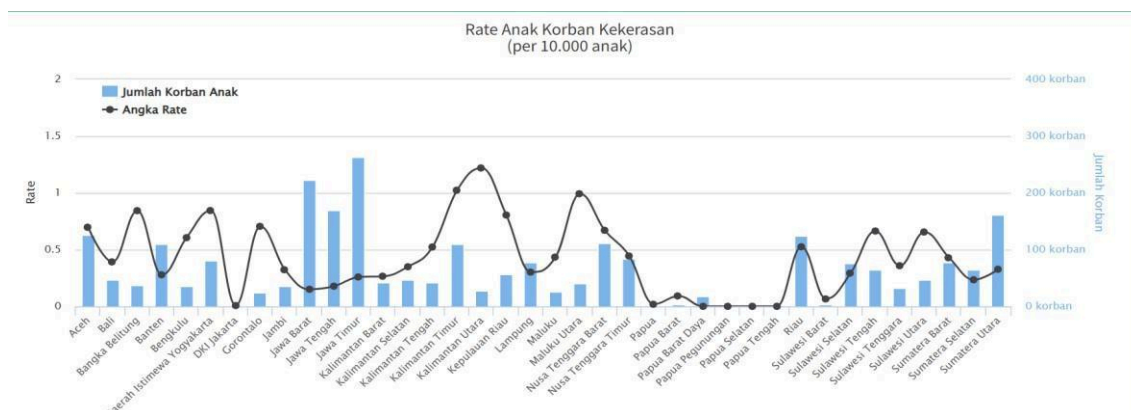
Introduction

In general, The effectiveness of penalties for sex offenders in children has been of widespread concern in some countries and among legal and even social science researchers (Bondestam & Lundqvist, 2020). However, their findings still led to paradoxical pros and cons. Those in favour argued that providing strict and harsh punishments through legislation was an effective solution as it could significantly reduce the rate of sexual violence. (Maurelli & Ronan, 2013). However, on the other hand, it was thought by some to have no substantial effect in reducing the number of victims of sexual violence against children, such as research by Levenson, Brannon, Fortney dan Baker (Koon-Magnin, 2015). They believe that state intervention by issuing punitive policies to perpetrators does not have a significant effect on reducing the number of victims of sexual violence against children, according to research by Levenson, Brannon, Fortney and Baker. (Stoltenborgh et al., 2011), for the case in the United States cited by Koon in his article entitled *Perceptions of and support for sex offender policies: Testing Levenson, Brannon, Fortney, and Baker's findings*.

In this pro-con discussion space, Indonesia was in a position as a country that intervenes in cases of sexual violence against children (Putri et al., 2022). Indonesia had more than ten regulations, including issuing a Government Regulation in Lieu of Law (PERPPU) as a preventive measure by the state by providing measures such as chemical castration, installation of electronic detection devices, and rehabilitation for perpetrators of sexual violence against children in Indonesia. Despite this, the number of cases of sexual violence against children in the country continued to increase. (Wismayanti et al., 2019). According to the National Commission on Women, the number of cases of sexual violence against children in Indonesia was 49,762 from 2012 to 2021. It implied that the average number of cases of sexual violence against children in Indonesia per year is 5,529 (Putri et al., 2022). If this number of 5,529 cases was divided by the 38 provinces in Indonesia, the annual average incidence per province in Indonesia was approximately 145 cases per province.

Figure 1

Graph showing child abuse loaded from SIMFONI-PPA in 2021 with the ratio of victims of violence per 10,000 children in each province in Indonesia.



Meanwhile, in Aceh, as reported by the Office of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (DP3A) in 2023, 1,029 cases of sexual violence against children were found that year. Some data suggested that the rate of sexual violence against children was rising in Aceh, and it tended to increase every year. (Putra Yuniar, 2019; Zumarni & Bantasyam, 2022). Data from the Integrated Service Center for Women and Children Empowerment (P2TP2A) previously reported that the number of violence against women and children per year rose exponentially from 2015 to 2017. In 2015, there were 939 cases, increasing dramatically in 2016 to 1,648 cases, followed by 1,791 cases in 2017 (Rizky, 2023). A report from the Aceh Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Agency (DP3A) revealed an increase in cases of violence and sexual harassment against women and children in Aceh by the end of June 2023. In 2020, there were 905 cases; in 2021, there were 924 cases. The highest level of increase occurred in 2022, with 1,029 cases. Every 18 hours and 45 minutes, one child in Aceh is a victim of sexual violence (Yulia Susantri. Sri Dwi Friwarti, 2023).

Research that examines sexual violence in Aceh can be categorized into three patterns of study. First, normative studies, which discuss regulations, such as an article entitled Looking at the Implementation of Local Government Qanuns in Handling and Protecting Child Violence in Aceh, written by Anggi Putri et al. (Rokania & Putri, 2023) and the article Juridical Review of the Dualism of Authority to Settle Crimes of Sexual Violence Committed by Children (Legal Studies in Aceh Province) written by Shira Thani and Fitria Mardhatillah. (Thani et al., 2023). Also related to dissatisfaction with the regulation on initial evidence by rape victims in Aceh (Andani, 2020) and the existence of legal dualism in dealing with sexual violence in Aceh (Achmad, 2020).

The second pattern was implementation studies, a type of research that analyzes how a policy, program, or initiative is operationalized in practice. Implementation studies were often undertaken in the context of public policy, organizational management, or the development of government programs (Akib, 2010; Subianto, 2020), e.g. Law Enforcement against sexual violence against children in Aceh Besar (Zumarni & Bantasyam, 2022), Law enforcement against the crime of rape of a child based on Aceh's Qanun Jinayat (Putra Yuniar, 2019) and article on Legal Protection of Child Victims of Sexual Violence in West Aceh (Yulia Susantri. Sri Dwi Friwarti, 2023), articles discussed the Implementation of the Child Protection Law against Violent Crimes (Permatasari et

al., 2022) as well as articles criticised Aceh's Qanun on the implementation of criminal justice against children who commit gambling (Putri et al., 2022).

The third pattern was sociological studies that study the behaviour, interaction, structure, and development of human society. This field involves the systematic analysis of how individuals, groups, and institutions interact with each other in a social context, such as the articles entitled *The Millennial Generation and Qanun Jinayat Aceh on Social Media: Responses to Qanun Jinayat Article on Sexual Violence* (Dara Maisun, 2022), *Public views on flogging in Aceh* (Rizki & Nisa, 2019). *Advantages and disadvantages of Islamic Sharia in Aceh* (Sari, 2016) and sociological aspects related to non-Muslims in Aceh (Suparmin, 2017).

This research related to the second pattern, which focuses on the Aceh Government's policy issues in handling cases of sexual violence against children in Aceh based on Qanun Number 9 of 2019 concerning the Implementation of Handling Violence Against Women and Children in Aceh and how the implementation of the handling of cases of sexual violence against children that occur in Banda Aceh as the provincial capital.

Method

This research is field research using the empirical juridical method, which is intended to collect information about the status of existing symptoms. The approach used is a qualitative approach, with the aim of exploring, building a proportion, or explaining the meaning behind the reality that occurs. Researchers are guided by the realities or events that take place in the field.

Qualitative method research can be interpreted as research that can produce descriptive data regarding oral and written words and behaviour that can be observed from the people studied, including interviews with victims and victim advocates to find out the implementation of Aceh Qanun Number 9 of 2019 related to handling cases of sexual violence against children in Aceh and how the implementation of handling cases of sexual violence that occur in Aceh by raising a number of cases and handling them from victim advocates that have occurred both in Banda Aceh to find answers related to the implementation of handling cases as mandated by Aceh Qanun Number 9 of 2019.

Result

In Aceh, at least three regulations deal with the mitigation of sexual violence against children: first, Aceh Qanun No. 11/2008 on Child Protection (Qanun Child Protection), second, Aceh Qanun No. 6/2014 on Jinayat Law (Qanun Jinayat), and third, Qanun No. 9/2019 on the Implementation of Handling Violence Against Women and Children. Although this paper mostly examines the implementation in the field related to the handling of sexual violence against children in the city of Banda Aceh as a prototype case of sexual violence against children in Aceh, it also links it to two other regulations, namely Aceh Qanun Number 11 of 2008 concerning Child Protection (Qanun Child Protection), Aceh Qanun Number 6 of 2014 concerning Jinayat Law (Qanun Jinayat).

Table 1

Table Showing Regulations Made by the Government of Aceh for the Prevention and Handling of Cases of Sexual Violence in Aceh.

No	Regulations	Materials
1	Qanun Aceh Number 11 Year 2008	Qanun Protection of Children in Aceh
2	Qanun Aceh Number 6 Year 2014	Qanun Jinayah.
3	Qanun Number 9 Year 2019	Maintenance of the Treatment of Violence Against Women and Children.

Aceh Qanun No. 11/2008 on Child Protection sets out to protect children in Aceh. The Qanun contains various provisions that regulate the rights of children, the obligations of parents or guardians, and efforts to prevent and overcome various forms of violence and exploitation against children. Law enforcement and protection of victims of sexual violence against children are also the main focus of this Qanun. The definition of *violence* against children in this Qanun on Child Protection, as stated in Article 1 paragraph (17), is all forms of physical, mental and sexual violence that result in disability or injury to the body and mind, but this Qanun does not mention criminal penalties.

The goal of Qanun Jinayah No. 6/2014 is to regulate the *jinayah* (criminal law) in Aceh, including sexual harassment and rape, restrained based on the principles of Islamic sharia with punishment. The content of the qanun jinayah covers ten criminal offences in Aceh, namely Drinking *Khamar*, Gambling (*Maisir*), *Khalwat*, *Ikhtilath*, Adultery (*Zina*), Sexual harassment, Rape, *Qadzaf*, *Liwath*, and *Musahaqah*. In the Qanun Jinayah, there are ten types of Islamic criminal offences in Aceh, including the crime of sexual violence, but using the terminology of sexual harassment and rape. The crime of sexual harassment against children is punishable by a maximum of 90 (ninety) lashes or, a maximum fine of 900 (nine hundred) grams of pure gold or a maximum imprisonment of 90 (ninety) months. Meanwhile, the crime of rape against children is punishable by flogging at least 150 (one hundred and fifty) times, a maximum of 200 (two hundred) times or a fine of at least 1,500 (one thousand five hundred) grams of pure gold and a maximum of 2,000 grams of pure gold.

Accordingly, based on Qanun Jinayah, the punishment for sexual violence is divided into two: First, flogging at a maximum of 90 (ninety) times or a maximum fine of 900 (nine hundred) grams of pure gold or imprisonment for a maximum of 90 (ninety) months for perpetrators of sexual abuse against children. Second is flogging punishment of at least 150 (one hundred and fifty) times, at most 200 (two hundred) times or a fine of at least 1,500 (one thousand five hundred) grams of pure gold and at most 2,000 grams of pure gold, in addition to additional punishment in the form of payment of restitution to the victim against the perpetrator of rape against a child.

The goal of Qanun Number 9 of 2019 concerning the Implementation of Response to Violence against Women and Children, which is the focus of this research, is as a guideline in an effort to provide comprehensive protection and handling of cases of violence in Aceh Province. By providing a comprehensive legal framework and a coordinated handling mechanism, this qanun is expected to bring positive changes in dealing with the issue of violence against women and children in the region along with three stages of prevention, services and protection and empowerment and rehabilitation. Based on data from the Office of Women's Empowerment, Child Protection, Population Control and Family Planning (DP3AP2KB) through the Banda Aceh City Women and Children Protection Service Unit, cases of violence against women and children in Banda Aceh in 2020 decreased from the previous year but increased in 2021. Head of DP3AP2KB Banda Aceh City Cut Azharida said that throughout 2020, there were 116 cases of violence consisting of 69 cases of violence against women and 47 against children. This number is the smallest of the last six years; namely, in 2015, there were 144 cases, 2016 176 cases, 2017 140 cases 2018 144 cases, 2019 137 cases, 2020 116 cases, 2021 156 cases and 2022 170 cases.

Table 2

Table Showing Number of Victims of Violence Against Women and Children Handled by the Women and Children Protection Service Unit at the Banda Aceh City DP3AP2KB Office

No	Years	Quantity
1	2020	116 cases
2	2021	156 cases
3	2022	170 cases

From the report, it is apparent that cases of violence against women and children show an increasing trend from year to year. The cases of violence against children handled by the women and child protection service unit at the Banda Aceh City P3AP2KB Office can be seen in the following table:

Table 3

Table Illustrating Number of Child Violence Victims Handled by the Women's and Children's Protection Service Unit at the Banda Aceh City P3AP2KB Office in 2022

No	Forms of Violence	Quantity
1	Psychic Violence	8 cases
2	Physical Abuse	13 cases
3	Sexual Abuse	17 cases
4	Sexual (Incess)	5 cases
5	Sodomy	4 cases
6	Trafficking	1 cases
7	Neglect	7 cases
8	Domestic Violence (KDRT)	5 cases
9	Children in Conflict with the Law (ABH)	6 cases

10	Forms of Violence	5 cases
	total	71 cases

Based on Figure 3, it can be seen that the highest number of cases of violence against children was sexual violence with 17 cases, followed by physical abuse with a total of 13 cases, psychological abuse in third place with 8 cases, child neglect 7 cases, ABH 6 cases, domestic violence 5 cases, child custody 5 cases, sodomy 4 cases and trafficking 1 case.

Furthermore, so far, the phenomenon of increasing cases of sexual violence in Aceh can be categorized into two typologies of cases, namely intra-familial and extra-familial. Cases of sexual violence that are intra-familial are cases of sexual violence that occur within the household, such as cases of sexual violence against children committed by their foster brothers. (Warrington et al., 2023). Like the case of sexual violence committed by the victim's adopted brother. The case of victim CI (14 years old), was a victim who was sexually assaulted by her own adopted brother. As explained by the victim's friend who said:

"It all started because her parents divorced. At the age of 1, she was fought over by her mother and father to take care of her, until finally the winner to take care of her was her father. His father remarried, and his father's second wife had three sons. After marriage they lived in the same house, when she was 12 years old she was continuously abused by her foster brother up to 17 times. Because he could not bear it, he ran away from his own house to my house, then he told me everything he experienced, I made a report to the police station and received services and assistance from DP3AP2KB Banda Aceh City". (Informant A, 16 years old).

Second case: Sexual violence committed by an uncle against his nephew. Such as the case that befell C2 (7 years old), a victim of sexual violence by his uncle. As explained by the victim advocate from UPTD PPA Banda Aceh:

"In December 2021, my daughter complained of genital pain, so I took her to a midwife near my house. Then the midwife said that my child's hymen had been torn. I tried to ask my child who did it, but she did not answer. Until finally she admitted that it was her uncle who did it. I was concerned about the fate of my child who was still young, immediately reported it to the Banda Aceh Police, then the police handed it over to the DP3AP2KB of Banda Aceh City." (Informant B, 35 years old).

Meanwhile, cases of extra-familial sexual violence are forms of sexual violence experienced by a child outside the family environment, such as sexual harassment by teachers, bullying at school, abuse by caregivers at daycare centres, or fraud by strangers (Fischer & McDonald, 1998; Warrington et al., 2023). As in the third case, C3 was a victim of sexual abuse by her neighbour. The victim, MF (4 years old), was a victim of sexual abuse committed by her neighbour, as stated by the parents of MF:

"The client with the initials TAF is a 15-year-old boy; the client is a victim of sodomy committed by his father's close friend, who is considered family. The perpetrator often took for a walk with the client, and it was usual for him to bring

the client to the boarding house where the offender lived. The perpetrator committed his actions at his rental house. According to information from the client's parents, the offence had been repeatedly committed by the perpetrator, but the client was afraid to tell his parents. This case was uncovered when the father checked the cellphone of the client's younger brother, where the cellphone contained many videos and porn sites. In addition to the client being a victim of sodomy, it turns out that the client's younger brother is also a victim of sodomy from the perpetrator, who is a close friend of the client's father". (Informant C, 20 years old).

Fourth case: Another extra-familial case, such as that of AZAA, is a 16-year-old boy who is still studying at one of the foundations in Aceh Besar.

"In early 2023, the client received bad treatment in the form of sexual behaviour from the head of the boarding school where the client was educated. The client received sexual harassment twice; the first incident where at that time the mode of the perpetrator asked the client to massage him in the perpetrator's office, and then the perpetrator performed his depraved actions in the form of squeezing the client's genitals and kissing the client. In the second incident at that time, the client was sleeping in the client's room around 1:30. The perpetrator suddenly entered the client's room through the window and harassed the client; when the perpetrator was carrying out his actions, the client woke up and the perpetrator immediately left the perpetrator's room then the perpetrator threatened the client not to tell others and the perpetrator left 20,000 money to the client ". (Counselor D, 20 years old).

Indeed, looking at the cases above, it seems that the problem of violence against children in Aceh is particularly serious, and requires comprehensive responses. But if examined further, the Aceh government in this case has legalized and has regulated the procedures for handling these, as described in Qanun 9/2019 article 20 which includes aspects of prevention, service and protection, empowerment and rehabilitation aspects as explained below:

Aspects of Prevention

In Qanun No. 9/2019 articles 21, it is demonstrated that prevention measures toward violence against children in Aceh are implemented by the Office and/or under the coordination of the head office in the Province. Prevention involves the family, community, business world, philanthropic institutions, social institutions, customary institutions, religious institutions, educational institutions, and/or mass media.

Prevention of violence against children is maintained by establishing a working network in efforts to prevent violence against children, coordination, integration, and synchronization of violence prevention with a partnership pattern with the community, private sector, and non-governmental organizations, socialization of laws and regulations related to empowerment and protection of children's rights, Building a safe and comfortable environment and public facilities for children, Building an integrated security system, including the placement of security officers in areas that are vulnerable

and prone to violence and Strengthening family consultation institutions for the fulfilment of children's rights.

However, regarding coordination between agencies, in reality, agencies related to the protection of children and in Aceh still use their own rules, not fully adopting Aceh Qanun number 9 of 2019 as a guideline for protecting women and children, as interviewed by Ms Risda, Head of the Women and Child Protection Division of DP3AP2KB Banda Aceh City as one of the agencies tasked with assisting the Mayor in carrying out government affairs in the field of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection. She further explained that supporting documents are essential. For example, the governor's regulation is a mutually agreed upon technical guidance regulation in the field. Dealing with this issue involves many cross-sector agencies, and while each agency has its own rules, it has yet to work in a coordinated manner.

Service and Protection Aspects

Based on Qanun Number 9 of 2019 articles 23, which explains that the services and protection referred to include receiving and sending case referrals from or to other Service-Provider Institutions in a networked manner, the implementation of services and protection as referred to in paragraph (3) is carried out based on the SOP determined by the Governor.

Moreover, in this case, the Government of Aceh can cooperate with vertical agencies, other provincial governments, district/city governments, village governments or other names, non-governmental organizations, the business world and /or philanthropic institutions, professional institutions, communities and/or families in implementing services and protection.

Furthermore, services and protection include receiving and sending case referrals from or to other service provider institutions in a networked manner. The implementation of services and protection, by paragraph (3), is carried out based on Standard Operating

Procedures (SOP) established by the Governor. The Government of Aceh, in implementing services and protection as stipulated in paragraph (1), may cooperate with vertical agencies, other provincial governments, district/city governments, village governments or other names, non-governmental organizations, the business world, philanthropic organizations, professional organizations, the community, and/or families.

Regarding the Governor's SOP, as mandated by the Qanun, it has not yet been implemented, based on the author's interview with the Head of the Women and Children Protection Division of DP3AP2KB Banda City who expected an SOP from the Provincial

Government since the Aceh Qanun Number 9 of 2019 was designed at the provincial level, therefore supporting documents are necessary, such as governor's regulations, technical guidance regulations and the like as the SOP. In this way, this Qanun has been adopted in the field, but supporting documents are still essential for its implementation.

Empowerment and Rehabilitation Aspects

In Qanun No. 9/2019 articles 29, empowerment and rehabilitation measures for victims of violence are undertaken holistically to achieve victims' independence, covering the economic, political, social, and cultural fields.

Economic empowerment includes entrepreneurship training, assistance with productive economic enterprises, cooperation with the business world, facilitating capital

provision, and expanding access to information. Political empowerment includes strengthening the capacity to engage in decision-making, increasing legal knowledge, and improving leadership capacity. Empowerment in the social and cultural fields includes improving reading skills, returning to the family, and repatriation and social reintegration. Medical rehabilitation includes medical examinations, treatment, counselling, and therapy.

Similarly, regarding rehabilitation for victims of sexual violence against children in the four cases above, assistance and rehabilitation for victims of counselling has been provided by the Regional Technical Implementation Unit for the Protection of Women and Children (UPTD PPA) as the technical implementer in the field concerning victims of sexual violence in Banda Aceh. Several cases of sexual violence against children that occurred in Banda Aceh City have been assisted in mental rehabilitation in collaboration with psychologists. (Interview with the head of UPTD PPA Banda Aceh).

Discussion

Although Aceh has issued a series of regulations on the prevention of sexual violence against children, such as Qanun Aceh No. 11/2008 on Child Protection, Qanun Aceh No. 6/2014 on Jinayat Law, Qanun No. 9/2019 on the Implementation of Addressing Violence Against Women and Children, the number of cases of sexual violence against children in Aceh shows an increasing trend over the years. Studies related to sexual violence against children underline the multifaceted of handling cases of sexual abuse against children. (Estévez et al., 2016) In other words, theoretically, this case must involve legal, psychological, and investigative parties. It also indicates the need to examine many aspects of the increasing trend of sexual violence against children in Aceh.

Investigations reveal that victims are often the weakest members in a household, while perpetrators hold superior positions, creating an imbalance that leaves children helpless. In the case of intra-familial typology, it indicates power relations, superior and inferior aspects between perpetrators and victims (Choalensia & Heriyando, 2022; Septiani, 2021). In addition to the influence of structural levels in the family, the influence of parental quality is associated with lower levels of psychopathology (Gewirtz-Meydan, 2020).

In addition, another obstacle in the implementation of handling cases of violence against women and children in Aceh is the joint SOP issued by the Aceh Government. Qanun Aceh Number 9 of 2019 concerning the Implementation of Addressing Violence Against Women and Children was prepared as a regulation at the provincial level. At the operational level, it requires supporting documents, such as Governor regulations, technical guidance regulations, and SOPS, to make this Qanun enforceable in the field since, in the practical application, supporting documents as technical guidelines in each city district is essential, because many cross-sectoral agencies operate in each city district, due to the fact that each agency has its own rules, therefore requiring synchronization and cross-sectoral cooperation.

Based on the results of the interview, it was clear that the main obstacle in the implementation of Qanun Aceh number 9 of 2019 was the absence of technical guidance from the Aceh Government, resulting in the relevant agencies handling violence against women and children in Aceh fail to establish effective coordination. Consequently, not

all agencies use the Qanun as a reference, leading some of the agencies to handle it with their own rules.

Regarding the prevention aspect, despite the Aceh Government having established a regulatory framework for addressing sexual violence against children, the effectiveness of these measures faces challenges in terms of implementation and lack of inter-agency coordination. Overcoming the problem requires strengthened implementation mechanisms, better inter-agency coordination, and a multisectoral approach aimed at providing a safer environment for children and reducing incidents of sexual violence.

Furthermore, in the service and protection aspects, The Qanun No. 9/2019 has provided a cohesive framework for handling violence against women and children in Aceh. However, the lack of implementation of necessary SOPs, poor inter-agency coordination, and insufficient community involvement have prevented this qanun from being effectively implemented.

In addition, by addressing issues such as developing SOPs, establishing coordination mechanisms, enhancing capacity building, implementing a robust monitoring framework, engaging communities, and utilizing technology, the Government of Aceh may significantly improve the protection and services provided to victims of violence.

Finally, in terms of empowerment and rehabilitation of child victims of sexual violence in Aceh, the efforts made so far are to provide assistance and counseling to victims up to the court level. However, this is far from enough, as there have been no further efforts to empower victims, such as providing sexual education, self-defense training, or economic empowerment which includes entrepreneurship training, support for productive economic businesses, cooperation with the business world, and facilitation of capital provision.

Conclusion

In the global discussion concerning the pros and cons of government involvement in addressing cases of sexual violence, Indonesia is considered a proactive country, having implemented numerous regulations in this regard. The government is deeply concerned and takes an active role in addressing these cases by enacting various regulations to prevent incidents of sexual violence against children within its territory, including in the province of Aceh.

The implementation of Aceh Qanun number 9 of 2019 concerning the administration of violence against women and children in Aceh is far from optimal. This is demonstrated by the number of sexual violence against children in Aceh, which always increases every year—four factors at least cause it. First, there is no standard operating procedure (SOP) in the form of a Governor Regulation related to Aceh Qanun number 9 of 2019. Second, parents are reluctant to report incidents of sexual violence against their children because they consider it a family disgrace. Third, the community is not enthusiastic about reporting sexual violence that occurs in their environment, and Fourth, children as victims sometimes experience mental down, making it difficult to dig up information related to the sexual violence they experience.

The three stages of the implementation of handling sexual violence against children as Qanun Number 9 of 2019, namely prevention, protection services, and



and rehabilitation for victims, do not seem to have been realized adequately. Therefore, more serious intervention is required from the local government in this regard, such as conducting periodic evaluations, for example in the short, medium and long term, to measure the prevalence of incidents both in quantity and quality. Lack of accurate data and information, and weak supervision, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of child protection policies and programs are other problems that must be addressed by the Aceh government. The Government of Aceh can raise public awareness and encourage reporting of sexual violence against children with various initiatives. A public education campaign through mass media, such as TV, radio, newspapers, and social media, as well as community workshops in schools and religious centres can educate the public about the signs of sexual abuse and the importance of reporting.

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