

DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.12426185

IMPLEMENTATION OF LEGAL PROTECTION FOR CHILD RAPE VICTIMS IN INDRAMAYU

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Received: 12/09/2025

Accepted: 16/01/2026

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ABSTRACT

Child protection encompasses all activities that ensure the safeguarding of children and their rights, enabling them to live, grow, develop, and engage fully in accordance with human dignity, while also receiving protection from violence and prejudice. This study aims to analyze the practice and model of legal protection for child rape victims in Indramayu Regency from a justice perspective. The research employs an empirical juridical approach, integrating the examination of laws and regulations with the actualization of their implementation within society. Data were acquired through interviews and observations as primary sources, alongside literature reviews as secondary sources, thereafter assessed qualitatively. The study's findings indicate that legal protections for child rape victims in Indramayu have not been adequately enforced. Despite normative regulations established by Law Number 35 of 2014 regarding Child Protection and Law Number 12 of 2022 addressing Sexual Violence Crimes, practical implementation faces numerous challenges, including inadequate preventive measures, insufficient psychological recovery resources for victims, and a scarcity of supportive facilities such as safe houses. Moreover, many social traditions persist, wherein cases are resolved by marrying the victim to the culprit, which contravenes the principles of child protection and penal law. This study underscores that an equitable legal protection model must not solely concentrate on criminalizing offenders, but also ensure the full fulfillment of victims' rights, encompassing management, protection, and rehabilitation. It is essential to enhance collaboration among law enforcement officials, local governments, and the community to ensure the effective and equitable implementation of legislative protections for child rape victims.

KEYWORDS: Child Victims of Rape, Legal Protection, Children's Rights, Justice.

1. INTRODUCTION

Child protection obligations are imposed on the state, government, local governments, communities, families, and parents. The rights protected are: The right to protection from violence, persecution, and neglect., The right to education, health, and social security, Protection from exploitation (economic/sexual), and involvement in social/political conflicts. Sexual violence against children can occur in the family environment and can also occur in the community. One of the most common forms of sexual violence experienced by children and the most horrific is rape or rape (Wardah, 2022).

In the case of rape, at least 3 (three things are involved, namely the perpetrator, the victim, and the situation and conditions. When they cannot be separated from each other. Each has its own role in encouraging the occurrence of a criminal act of rape (Rachmawati *et al.*, 2023). Child rape is one of the most serious and complex forms of human rights violations. Children who are victims of rape not only suffer physical injuries, but also profound psychological trauma that can affect their overall development (Tanjung *et al.*, 2023). The protection of children who experience sexual violence has been regulated in Law No. 35 of 2014 concerning Child Protection, Law No. 12 of 2022 (TPKS Law) and further strengthened by the existence of a new Criminal Code as stipulated in article 473 of Law No. 1 of 2023 (Rape). This law ensures that children receive special protection in various situations, both in the family and community environment. For example, the case of rape of children that occurred in Indramayu based on data for the last 6 years, reached 247 cases received by law enforcement officers of the Indramayu Police, with details of 2020 reaching 25, 2021 reaching 22, 2022 reaching 38, 2023 reaching 38, 2024 reaching 69 and 2025 reaching 55 cases. Meanwhile, the data received by DISDUK-P3A from 2024 reached 37 cases and from January-November 2025 reached 20 cases. Based on this data, it has been a tendency to increase cases from year to year.

In addition to this data, there are cases of child rape that have occurred in Indramayu and ended up being married (*siri*) to the perpetrator by his family based on consent. This occurs because of environmental, educational, and socio-cultural characteristics intrinsic to the community, particularly in regions that are challenging for the government to access and that lack sufficient infrastructure. This condition is alarming. Under the new Criminal Code (Law No. 1 of 2023), Rape (Article 473) is defined as sexual intercourse with

another individual involving violence, threats, or exploitation of the victim's incapacity to provide permission. Under criminal law and child protection theory, sexual relations with children, regardless of the absence of physical violence, designation as "consensual," or subsequent marriage, may still be classified as criminal acts of rape or sexual violence against minors. Therefore, it is imperative to enhance preventive measures by elevating public awareness regarding the significance of safeguarding children from sexual violence or rape. Despite several studies addressing the legal protection of child victims of rape, the majority predominantly on normative analysis and fail to thoroughly incorporate the practical experiences of victims and the enforcement of protective measures by law enforcement officials. This study examines equitable legal protection procedures and strategies for children of rape victims as described above.

State of the Art (Overview of Current Scientific Positions)

Research on legal safeguards for child rape victims in Indonesia has significantly advanced, particularly following the enactment of Law No. 35 of 2014 on Child Protection and Law No. 12 of 2022 on Sexual Violence Crimes (TPKS).

Most previous research has focused on:

1. A normative-juridical approach that evaluates the alignment of laws and regulations with the principles of child protection and human rights. This group's research focuses on legal certainty, categories of criminal punishments, and the state's duty to safeguard child victims of sexual assault.
2. The victim's analysis identified the victim's child as the primary target of the perpetrator, emphasizing the psychological, social, and stigma-related repercussions endured by the victim following the rape episode.
3. A study of the criminal justice system that examines the role of law enforcement agencies (police, prosecutor's office, and courts) in addressing incidents of child rape, including procedural and structural impediments.

However, most of the research is still abstract-normative and has not in-depth examined the practice of implementing legal protection at the local level, especially the interaction between law enforcement officials, child protection agencies, and the community. In addition, the dimensions of the equitable legal protection model—which includes the comprehensive handling, protection, and recovery of victims—are still relatively limited in empirical studies.

This essay adopts a contemporary stance by employing a juridical-empirical methodology that

scrutinizes legal standards while also reflecting the actual execution of legal protection for child rape victims in Indramayu Regency.

Utilizing cutting-edge mapping and research data, multiple research gaps have been effectively identified:

1. The gap between written law and field practice

Although the legal framework for child protection is relatively comprehensive, its implementation at the regional level is still not optimal, especially in the aspects of prevention and victim recovery.

2. Lack of locally based empirical studies

Previous Research has infrequently investigated the legal protections afforded to rape victims within certain places characterized by unique socio-cultural attributes, such as Indramayu.

3. Lack of a victim-oriented legal protection model.

Most research still focuses on criminalizing perpetrators, while psychological, social, and survivor recovery has not been the main focus.

4. There is a lack of synergy between stakeholders

There is insufficient research on establishing equitable and sustainable coordination among law enforcement officers, child protection agencies, and the community for legal protection.

2. RESEARCH METHODS

2.1. Research Design and Approach

This study employs a **juridical-empirical research approach**, which integrates normative legal analysis with empirical field investigation. The juridical component examines statutory regulations governing child protection and sexual violence, particularly Law No. 35 of 2014 on Child Protection, Law No. 12 of 2022 on Sexual Violence Crimes, and Law No. 1 of 2023 on the Criminal Code. The empirical component analyzes how these legal norms are implemented in practice by law enforcement agencies, government institutions, and the community in Indramayu Regency. This approach was selected to capture the gap between formal legal provisions and their actual application in protecting child victims of rape.

2.2. Research Location and Period

The research was conducted in **Indramayu Regency, West Java, Indonesia**, as this area has recorded a relatively high number of cases involving sexual violence against children. Data collection was carried out from November 2025 to January 2026, allowing sufficient time for field observation, interviews, and document analysis.

2.3. Research Subjects and Informants

The study involved purposively selected informants who were directly related to the handling

of child rape cases. The selection was based on their roles, experience, and relevance to the research objectives.

The informants included:

1. Officers of the Women and Children Protection Unit (PPA) of the Indramayu Police
 2. Officials from the Population Control, Family Planning, Women's Empowerment, and Child Protection Agency (DISDUK-P3A)
 3. Social service providers and child protection practitioners
 4. Victims of sexual violence and/or their family members (with ethical safeguards)
 5. Community leaders and local stakeholders
- In total, 3 informants participated in this study.

2.4. Data Types and Sources

This research utilizes both primary and secondary data.

2.4.1. Primary Data

Primary data were obtained through:

- In-depth semi-structured interviews with informants
- Direct field observations of institutional practices and service procedures
- Documentation of case-handling processes

2.4.2. Secondary Data

Secondary data were collected from:

- Laws and regulations related to child protection and sexual violence
- Court decisions and official reports (where available)
- Academic journals, books, and policy documents
- Statistical data from government institutions

2.5. Data Collection Techniques

a. Interviews

Semi-structured interviews were conducted using an interview guide developed based on the research objectives. This method allowed flexibility while ensuring consistency across interviews. Interviews focused on legal procedures, institutional coordination, victim assistance, and implementation challenges.

Each interview lasted approximately 120 minutes and was recorded with the consent of participants.

b. Observation

Non-participant observation was carried out in relevant institutions, such as police units and social service offices, to understand operational practices, victim handling procedures, and service accessibility.

c. Document Analysis

Relevant legal documents, institutional guidelines,

and case records were examined to complement interview and observation data.

2.6. Data Analysis Method

Data analysis was conducted using a **qualitative descriptive-analytical method**, following these stages:

1. Data Reduction
2. Interview transcripts, observation notes, and documents were organized and selected based on relevance.
3. Data Categorization

Data were coded and grouped into thematic categories, such as prevention, legal handling, victim protection, recovery services, and institutional coordination.

4. Data Interpretation

The categorized data were interpreted by linking empirical findings with legal norms and theoretical perspectives on victim protection and justice.

5. Conclusion Drawing

Patterns and relationships among themes were identified to formulate research conclusions.

This process was conducted continuously throughout the research period.

2.7. Validity and Reliability of Data

To ensure data credibility, several techniques were applied:

- Source triangulation by comparing information from different informants
- Method triangulation through interviews, observations, and document analysis
- Member checking by confirming key findings with selected informants
- Peer discussion with academic colleagues

These procedures enhanced the trustworthiness and consistency of the research findings.

2.8. Ethical Considerations

Given the sensitive nature of the research topic, strict ethical standards were applied. These included:

- Obtaining informed consent from all participants
- Ensuring confidentiality and anonymity of victims and informants
- Using pseudonyms in transcripts and reports
- Avoiding questions that could retraumatize victims
- Prioritizing participants' psychological safety

Participation was voluntary, and informants had the right to withdraw at any time.

2.9. Research Limitations

This study is limited by the availability of informants, institutional access, and confidentiality

restrictions. Some victims were unable to participate directly due to psychological conditions and legal constraints. In addition, limited access to official case records affected the depth of quantitative analysis.

Nevertheless, these limitations do not reduce the significance of the qualitative findings, which reflect institutional practices and social realities.

3. DISCUSSION

3.1. Implementation of Legal Protection for Child Rape Victims

The findings indicate that legal protection for child victims of rape in Indramayu Regency has been formally implemented in accordance with statutory regulations. Law enforcement agencies, particularly the Women and Children Protection Unit (PPA) of the Indramayu Police, follow established procedures in receiving reports, conducting investigations, collecting evidence, and forwarding cases to the prosecution stage.

Police officers generally provide initial assistance to victims, including facilitating medical examinations, ensuring confidentiality, and offering legal guidance. Similarly, DISDUK-P3A plays a role in coordinating social services and psychological support. These practices reflect compliance with Law No. 35 of 2014 and Law No. 12 of 2022, which mandate handling, protection, and recovery for victims of sexual violence.

However, empirical data reveal that legal protection is predominantly reactive. Institutional intervention usually begins only after victims or their families submit formal reports. Preventive measures, such as community outreach and early detection mechanisms, remain limited. This condition reduces the effectiveness of legal protection in preventing repeated or unreported cases.

3.2. Equitable Practices and Legal Protection Frameworks for Child Victims of Sexual Assault

The implementation of child protection in the Indramayu district has been ongoing and attempted for an extended period. The regulations outlined in the legislation and their implementation by law enforcement officers and social services.

According to Article 59 of Law No. 23 of 2002 (Law No. 23/2002) on Child Protection, subsequently amended by Law No. 35 of 2014 (Law No. 35/2014), the Government, Regional Governments, and other state institutions are mandated to ensure Special Protection for Children, including those who are victims of sexual crimes such as rape. Moreover, Article 76D (Law No. 35/2014) stipulates that it is

forbidden to perpetrate violence or threats of violence to coerce children into engaging in sexual intercourse with oneself or others.

Article 76E (Law No. 35/2014) forbids anyone from engaging in violence by threats, compulsion, deception, a pattern of falsehoods, and influencing youngsters to do or permit obscene acts. In legal protection, the offspring of a rape victim is entitled to rights as delineated in Article 66 of Law Number 12 of 2022 (Law No. 12/2022) regarding the Crime of Sexual Violence (TPKS), which asserts that the victim possesses the right to Handling, Protection, and Recovery from the moment the sexual violence crime, including rape, transpires. Additionally, Article 67 Paragraph (1) of Law No. 12/2022 delineates the rights of victims, encompassing Handling, Protection, and Recovery.

Suyanto (2023) stated broadly speaking, there are 5 (five) types of criminal acts of rape, namely:

a. *Sadistic rape*, that amalgamates sexuality and hostility through destructive violence. The assailant derives erotic gratification not from sexual intercourse but from a brutal assault on the victim's genitals and body.

b. *Anger rape*, which constitutes rape as a manifestation of wrath or as a method for articulating and alleviating feelings of anger and suppressed rage. The victim's body appears to be utilized as an object onto which the offender projects the resolution of his challenges, vulnerabilities, frustrations, and disappointments in life.

c. *Domination rape*, this constitutes rape, as the perpetrator seeks to assert his dominance or superiority over women, primarily for the purpose of sexual gratification.

d. *Seductive rape*, this constitutes rape as a result of the provocation of a stimulating circumstance generated by both parties. The victim initially chose to restrict personal intimacy and, to some degree, tolerated the perpetrator's activities as long as it did not entail sexual intercourse. Nonetheless, the offender believes that women inherently require coercion, and in the absence of it, she perceives herself as unsuccessful, resulting in the occurrence of rape.

e. *Exploitation rape*, which is rape that occurs due to profit or a situation in which the woman in question is in a position of economic and social dependence.

The criminal statutes and corresponding punishments for individuals convicted of sexual intercourse with minors are explicitly delineated, including imprisonment and monetary fines. Article 81, Paragraph (1) of Law No. 35/2014 stipulates: "Any individual who contravenes the provisions

outlined in Article 76D shall be subjected to imprisonment for a minimum of five years and a maximum of fifteen years, along with a maximum fine of Rp5,000,000,000.00 (five billion rupiah)." Article 82 Paragraph (1) (Law No. 35/2014) states that "Any individual who contravenes the provisions outlined in Article 76E shall be subject to imprisonment for a minimum of five years and a maximum of fifteen years, along with a maximum fine of Rp5,000,000,000.00 (five billion rupiah)."

Furthermore, an interview was conducted with the victim, who experienced rape through trickery and persuasion. The victim, who was still 12 (twelve) years old at the time, was raped until she became pregnant or became pregnant by the perpetrator, who was over 18 (eighteen) years old. Consequently, in this victim situation, the perpetrator may be subjected to Article 81 Paragraph (1) and Article 82 Paragraph (1) (Law No. 35/2014) as a manifestation of criminal conduct by the perpetrator and as a protective measure for the victim.

From this case, DISDUK-P3A or the Social Service in Indramayu Regency, emphasized that children who have been raped have their rights by being given full treatment and protection, and providing certainty in the form of maintaining the identity of the victim in accordance with Article 67 Paragraph (1) (Law No. 12/2022) concerning TPKS. Moreover, the Indramayu Regency PPA Police provide legal protection through the submission of reports or complaints by victims acting as reporters. By providing or finalizing the administration, one of which is a birth certificate. As evidence that the victim was underage. Moreover, the police assisted the victim in obtaining the visa. The police will issue a report letter upon the release of the visa findings. An assessment will be conducted on both the victim and the perpetrator. Subsequently, the police will examine the crime scene with a minimum of two pieces of evidence. Should there be a minimum of two pieces of evidence, the case will advance from inquiry to the prosecutorial phase. Subsequent to the investigation, the case was submitted to the Attorney General for further examination. Upon examination and confirmation of the file's completeness, the evidence is presented for trial commencement. To date, the police have successfully executed their duty of safeguarding minor victims of rape.

The form of child protection practice of rape victims in Indramayu from the Police follows up on rape victims through reports or complaints. It is not a search in the community through the Police unit, namely SATBINMAS (Community Development Unit). So far, the Police continue to make efforts to protect children and protect their rights from various

things, including rape. Nonetheless, the police's repressive actions in following up on rape victims hinder the community's comprehensive awareness of child safety and the implementation of current laws and regulations. The victim endured rape. The action taken was not to denounce the culprit; instead, the family arranged a marriage between the victim and the criminal. The perpetrator is governed by Article 10, Paragraphs (1) and (2C), which stipulates penalties for individuals who marry their victims, including rape victims, with a possible imprisonment of nine years and/or a maximum fine of Rp200,000,000.00 (two hundred million rupiah). The marriage was conducted under the guise of concealing the disgrace due to the victim's pregnancy. The victim is entitled to rights as stipulated in Article 6, paragraph (1) of Law Number 31 of 2014 (Law No.31/2014) regarding the Protection of Witnesses and Victims, which asserts that victims of rape are entitled to medical assistance, as well as psychosocial and psychological rehabilitation support, beyond the provisions of criminal law.

3.3. Institutional Coordination and Service Delivery

The study found that coordination among law enforcement agencies, social services, healthcare providers, and community institutions is still fragmented. Although formal cooperation frameworks exist, their implementation remains inconsistent.

In practice, the police, DISDUK-P3A, and social service agencies often operate independently, with limited information sharing and joint case management. This situation results in delays in service delivery, overlapping responsibilities, and gaps in victim assistance, particularly in long-term rehabilitation.

Moreover, the absence of integrated data systems hampers monitoring and evaluation of victim support programs. Consequently, victims frequently receive short-term assistance without systematic follow-up. These findings indicate that institutional coordination has not yet fully embodied the integrated service model envisioned in national regulations.

3.4. Access to Justice and Procedural Barriers

Access to justice for child rape victims in Indramayu remains constrained by procedural, social, and economic factors. From a procedural perspective, reporting mechanisms are still perceived as complex and intimidating, especially for families with limited legal literacy.

Interviews revealed that some families hesitate to

report cases due to fear of social stigma, lengthy legal processes, and potential retaliation from perpetrators. Economic constraints further limit victims' ability to pursue legal remedies, particularly when transportation, medical, and administrative costs are involved.

In several cases, families preferred informal settlements, including marriage between victims and perpetrators, to avoid social disgrace. This practice contradicts criminal law principles and undermines victims' rights. It reflects the persistence of legal pluralism, where customary norms compete with formal legal systems in shaping dispute resolution.

Here, the task of the Population Control, Family Planning, Women's Empowerment, and Child Protection Agency of Indramayu Regency ensures that victims need both medical and psychological assistance. However, as a result of the interview, the Protection Agency only provides treatment and protection, not with recovery. It can be said that the rights of victims are still not being implemented optimally. Consequently, the implementation of legal protection by the Police, the Protection Service, and the community remains suboptimal in safeguarding children, particularly those who are victims of sexual assault.

Within the framework of a just model of protection for rape victims, it is acknowledged that the notion of justice is inherently opposed to that of injustice; wherever justice is present, injustice invariably accompanies it. The concept of legal injustice sometimes possesses varying interpretations. Susanto discusses something unusual in the interpretation of justice, which is related to the substance in it. Justice clashes with doubt and injustice, and in fact, justice will not exist without doubt and injustice. What is meant by justice itself is the recognition and balanced treatment between rights and obligations. Magnis Suseno argues that justice is a condition between human beings who are treated equally in accordance with their respective rights and obligations (Syahrial *et al.*, 2024).

Victims of rape has rights that must be upheld. Due of the grief, anguish, terror, and numerous adverse consequences that ensued following the action taken. Victims should not be overlooked or left to contend with their circumstances in isolation; rather, they must be safeguarded by law enforcement in their pursuit of justice. Attention to and safeguarding the interests of rape victims, both within the criminal justice system and through specific social care measures, is an essential consideration in criminal law and social policy, necessitating the involvement of executive,

legislative, and judicial bodies, along with other social institutions. The state is obligated to ensure legal, social, and psychological protection for children, thereby honoring their rights as human beings.

In accordance with Law Number 39 of 1999 regarding Human Rights. The rights of children in this Law are delineated in Chapter III, Part Ten, Articles 52-66, encompassing the right to protection, the right to life, the right to sustain life, and the right to enhance their level of living. Children with physical and/or mental disabilities possess several rights, including the right to a name and citizenship status, access to care, education, training, and specialized assistance to uphold their dignity and facilitate their participation in societal, national, and state life. The child possesses the right to worship in accordance with their religion, the right to be reared, nurtured, cared for, educated, directed, and guided, the right to legal protection, the right to education and instruction, the right to access health services and social security, and the right to not be unlawfully deprived of freedom.

3.5. Analysis of Justice and Victim-Centered Protection

From a justice perspective, the findings demonstrate that the existing protection system remains offender-oriented and procedure-driven. Legal success is often measured by case completion and conviction rather than by victim well-being.

Although perpetrators are prosecuted in many cases, victims' psychological recovery, social reintegration, and future security receive insufficient attention. This situation contradicts the principles of victim-centered justice embedded in the TPKS Law.

A more equitable protection model should integrate:

1. Criminal accountability of perpetrators
2. Comprehensive victim rehabilitation
3. Social reintegration mechanisms
4. Economic and educational support
5. Long-term monitoring

Without these components, legal protection remains partial and unsustainable.

The Indramayu district police stated that they implement preventive and repressive measures through law enforcement officials, including providing protection and supervision against various threats that may jeopardize the victim's life, accompanying the victim during medical examinations, and facilitating safe, comfortable, efficient, and complimentary services. This is essentially an expression of the safeguarding of human rights, particularly for victims. Additionally,

the Indramayu Regency Police stated that the complainant's intention in reporting to the police was not to reconstruct the female hymen. However, to prosecute the offender in the criminal case and even during incarceration. The female hymen cannot be reverted to its former condition. The concept of justice, particularly for women and rape victims, is inherently inequitable. The Indramayu Regency Police offer justice by providing services to the complainant that include security, comfort, efficiency, and are free of charge.

3.6. Victim Recovery and Rehabilitation Services

One of the most critical findings concerns the limited availability of comprehensive recovery services. Although victims are entitled to psychological, medical, and social rehabilitation under Law No. 12 of 2022, implementation remains inadequate.

DISDUK-P3A primarily provides short-term counseling and basic assistance. Long-term psychological therapy, educational reintegration, and social empowerment programs are rarely available. The absence of permanent safe houses (shelters) further restricts protection for victims facing ongoing threats.

Budget constraints and shortages of trained psychologists and social workers are major obstacles. As a result, victim recovery tends to be fragmented and temporary, increasing the risk of prolonged trauma and social marginalization.

This finding confirms that the current legal protection framework prioritizes procedural justice over restorative justice and victim-centered recovery.

The equitable model of legal protection for child victims of rape, as delineated by the Population Control, Family Planning, Women's Empowerment, and Child Protection Agency in Indramayu Regency, involves the provision of children's rights as articulated in Article 67 Paragraph (1) of Law No. 12/2022 concerning TPKS, specifically encompassing Handling, Protection, Recovery, and community counseling. The victim's identity remains confidential during the interrogation session, which is conducted in the presence of parents. When verifying the chronology, the agency adheres to established standards at every level, particularly for children, whom they approach as friends during the interrogation. However, counseling, protection, and recovery efforts are still impeded. The cause of the hampering of funds or financial systems that are used as vehicles, visit homes, psychologists and other legal assistance, so that with budget limitations, legal protection becomes less than optimal plus safe

houses (Shalter) for the safeguarding and rehabilitation of women and children in Indramayu district remain in the research or implementation phase, which is urgently required by the community for more comprehensive protection.

3.7. Socio-Cultural Influences on Legal Protection

Socio-cultural norms play a significant role in shaping responses to child rape cases in Indramayu. Traditional values emphasizing family honor and social harmony often discourage formal legal action.

The practice of resolving rape cases through marriage reflects patriarchal structures that subordinate victims' interests to communal reputation. Such practices perpetuate secondary victimization and normalize sexual violence against children.

Community leaders and informal authorities sometimes support these settlements, further weakening legal enforcement. This condition illustrates that legal protection cannot be effectively implemented without addressing underlying cultural beliefs and power relations.

Therefore, legal reform must be accompanied by sustained community education and cultural transformation.

The legal protection paradigm has been implemented; nonetheless, the realization of rights, including protection and restitution, remains suboptimal. Particularly from the Population Control Agency, Family Planning, Women's Empowerment, and Child Protection in Indramayu Regency.

3.8. Implications for Policy and Practice

Based on the findings, several strategic implications emerge:

1. Strengthening Preventive Programs
2. Government institutions should intensify community-based education on child protection and sexual violence prevention.
3. Improving Institutional Integration
4. An integrated case management system involving police, social services, health providers, and NGOs should be developed.
5. Expanding Recovery Infrastructure
6. The establishment of permanent shelters and specialized trauma centers is urgently needed.
7. Increasing Budget Allocation
8. Adequate funding is required for professional counseling, transportation assistance, and outreach programs.
9. Addressing Harmful Cultural Practices
10. Collaboration with religious and community leaders is essential to eliminate informal settlements

that violate victims' rights.

These measures are necessary to transform legal protection from a reactive mechanism into a comprehensive rights-based system.

The main novelty of this article lies in the following aspects:

1. Integration between legal norms and local empirical practices. This article does not stop at the analysis of laws and regulations, but directly examines how the law is implemented by the police, DISDUK-P3A, and the community in the real case of a child rape victim in Indramayu.
2. The study explicitly raises the phenomenon of marriage (including serial marriage) between child victims and perpetrators as a form of socio-cultural settlement, and affirms it as a violation of criminal law and child protection, even though it is claimed on the basis of "consensuality".
3. Analysis of the legal protection model based on victims' rights. This paper broadens the debate on legal protection by positioning justice not solely as the punishment of offenders, but also as the realization of victims' rights to management, protection, and rehabilitation, as stipulated by the TPKS Law.
4. Empirical findings on the limitations of victim recovery. This study shows that although protection and treatment have been carried out, the psychological and social recovery aspects of victims are still not optimal due to limited budgets, facilities, and the unavailability of safe houses (shelters).

This article emphatically fills this research gap by presenting a locally-based juridical-empirical approach, and offers an evaluation framework for the equitable practice and model of legal protection for child victims of rape.

3.9. Discussion in Relation to Previous Studies

The findings support previous research indicating that child protection in Indonesia remains largely normative and institution-centered. Similar studies have identified weak implementation, limited victim recovery services, and strong socio-cultural barriers.

However, this study contributes new insights by demonstrating how these challenges operate concretely at the local level in Indramayu. The empirical evidence confirms that legal effectiveness depends not only on regulatory frameworks but also on institutional capacity and social acceptance.

Thus, this study extends existing literature by emphasizing the importance of localized, victim-oriented, and culturally sensitive protection models.

4. CONCLUSION

The safeguarding of child victims of rape is governed by Law No. 35 of 2014 on Child Protection, namely in sections 76 (D) and (E). Types of legal safeguards offered The Indramayu police employ both preventive and repressive measures; however, the implementation of preventive legal protection remains inadequate. The police typically respond only after receiving a report from the complainant, the victim, or the victim's family. According to the Protection Office in Indramayu, victim protection for children involves ensuring their rights through assistance, safeguarding, and rehabilitation, yet this process is hindered by budgetary constraints, resulting in suboptimal handling.

Equitable legal protections for victims of rape are essential rights that must be upheld. From the experience of anguish, trepidation, and numerous adverse consequences that ensued following the action. Victims should not be neglected in their struggle for justice; rather, they must be supported by many stakeholders, including both governmental and community entities. According to the police in

Indramayu, protection is executed through preventive and repressive measures by law enforcement officials, which include safeguarding or monitoring against various threats that may jeopardize the victim's life, accompanying victims during medical examinations, and facilitating safe, comfortable, efficient, and complimentary services. According to the Indramayu Regency Disduk-P3A, protection involves safeguarding the victim's identity and providing psychological support to the victim.

Advice

The government can take steps to prevent acts of rape against children, including by imposing harsher sentences on the perpetrators and taking several other strategic steps. On the preventive side, the government can actively conduct public awareness campaigns. In addition, both the government and the community can also educate children from an early age about comprehensive sex education, so that they know which body parts are or are not allowed to be seen or touched by others, and how to avoid acts of rape.

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