



**The contribution of the regional child protection commission of Bangka
Belitung in dealing with children victims of sexual violence**

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ABSTRACT

Over the last two decades, the government has paid much more attention through imposing laws to minimize sexual violence against children. This mostly has been perpetrated by people close to them or extended family members. Accordingly, detrimental effects of such an immoral act case lead to physical problems and psychological disorders in children. Many cases are just the tip of the iceberg whereby disclosure has not been made because perpetrators fully know victims who always face threat in their lives. The interviews were conducted with three counselors and a key person or supervisor in the Regional Child Protection Commission (KPAD) to raise a concern about the victims, and to investigate the contribution of the KPAD in dealing with children victims of sexual violence. This study is undertaken as a result of the phenomena of sexual violence occurring in Bangka Belitung Islands Province. Field research with qualitative descriptive-analysis method was employed, and technique for data analysis applied a model of Miles et al. (2014). The findings showed that the contribution of KPAD in handling with victims of sexual violence against children includes providing assistance and advocacy, recovering trauma, boosting motivation, offering counseling, and giving assistance for legal justice technically and substantively. With the treatment, the KPAD of the Bangka Belitung Islands Province also provides the opportunity to assist the provincial government in facilitating the needs of the community who are able to contribute considerably to deal with the issues of sexual violence against children.

Keywords: *Contribution; KPAD; sexual violence; child victim; child protection.*

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ABSTRAK

Selama dua dekade terakhir ini, pemerintah telah banyak menaruh perhatian melalui fasilitas perangkat hukum untuk mengurangi kasus-kasus kekerasan seksual terhadap anak di bawah umur. Kekerasan seksual ini umumnya dilakukan oleh orang-orang dekat atau anggota-anggota dari keluarga besar. Karenanya, akibat-akibat buruk banyak timbul akibat kasus-kasus amoral ini, seperti gangguan fisik dan psikologis anak. Banyak kasus yang bagaikan gunung es belum diungkap selama ini sebab para pelaku kenal dengan korban yang selalu hidup dalam ancaman. Dengan menginterview tiga orang konselor and supervisor kunci di Komisi Perlindungan Anak Daerah (KPAD), kami fokus pada penanganan korban kekerasan seksual pada anak, dan kami investigasi perihal kontribusi penting KPAD terkait penanganan kasus kekerasan seksual pada anak. Penelitian ini dilakukan karena fenomena dari beberapa temuan tentang kekerasan seksual yang terjadi di Provinsi Kepulauan Bangka Belitung. Jenis penelitian ini adalah penelitian lapangan dengan metode analisis-deskriptif-kualitatif dengan teknik analisis data yang menggunakan model Miles dkk. (2014). Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa kontribusi Komisi Perlindungan Anak Daerah (KPAD) dalam menangani korban kekerasan seksual pada anak yaitu dengan memberikan pendampingan dan advokasi, pemulihan trauma, pemberian motivasi, penyediaan layanan konseling, dan pemberian bantuan teknis dan substantif berupa fasilitasi dukungan hukum. Dengan penanganan ini, KPAD Provinsi Kepulauan Bangka Belitung juga telah menyediakan kesempatan untuk membantu pemerintah provinsi dalam memfasilitasi kebutuhan-kebutuhan masyarakat yang mampu berkontribusi secara baik untuk menyelesaikan isu-isu yang berkaitan dengan kekerasan seksual pada anak.

Kata Kunci: *Kontribusi; KPAD; kekerasan seksual; korban anak; perlindungan anak.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Children are essentially part of human life which are inseparable from the sustainability of a nation and state. According to the Constitution of Republic of Indonesia, the strategic role of children has expressly stated in which the state guarantees the rights of every child for survival, growth, development, and protection from violence. For this reason, the best interest of children is that they should live and survive as mankind (Pramukti & Primaharsya, 2015). However, children are often being victims of sexual violence, and they need to get special assistance or treatment, as highlighted by many researchers that child sexual abuse is a heinous crime yet destroys individual's personality, so jobs of educators, counselors, social workers, or child workers are to prevent the children from it and take it very seriously (Fatmawati, 2016; Sentamu, 2019). Ligina et al. (2018) reported that violence against children includes physical, emotional, verbal, and sexual. As mentioned by Fatmawati (2016), of all the types of violence against children, sexual violence is the most common type of violence in the present day.

According to the Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAI), there were 218 and 120 cases of child sexual violence in 2015 and 2016 respectively. However, there was a

decline in number of cases from 116 to only 115 in 2017 and 2018 respectively. It seems to be worrisome years for Indonesian children in the last four years on account of the Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAI) having hundreds of cases of sexual violence against children which were perpetrated by close trusted people such as stepfathers and biological fathers, closest relatives, teachers, or friends (KPAI, 2016, 2020).

Meanwhile, based on case report data with the aid of a team at the Regional Child Protection Commission (KPAD) of the Bangka Belitung Islands Province of Indonesia for the period 2016 to December 2019, there were 63 cases of sexual violence against children. The total cases were 28, 21, and seven in 2016-2018, and during January-December 2019, there were a small number with seven cases. From the sexual violence cases, many children suffered from the traumatic stress and the effects of the trauma vary depending on the child and type of traumatic events experienced (KPAI, 2016, 2020).

Fauzi'ah (2016) noted that one of the factors affecting sexual violence against children is sexual attraction and tendency to children (pedophilia). According to Setiani et al. (2017), many causal factors include family, environment, value, and individual. Ningsih and Hennyati (2018) added that they are mainly caused by adult sexual disorientation, poor parental supervision on children, uncontrolled sources of information, and socio-cultural taboo of early sexuality education for children. From the several factors contributing to the occurrence of sexual violence, it is strongly related to the role of parents, counselors, and educational institutions, such as school that can help address the factors causing the violence (Ligina et al., 2018; Setiawan & Puwanto, 2019; Solehati et al., 2021).

The Regional Child Protection Commission (KPAD) of the Bangka Belitung Islands Province is a state-sponsored institution that assists the Regional Government of the Province in facilitating the needs of the community who are able to provide assistance to children's problems, violence against children, and other special social problems. It also aims to provide services for victims of violence. Another objective of the Regional Child Protection Commission (KPAD) of the Bangka Belitung Islands Province is to protect victims of sexual violence so that they feel that they receive much attention and protection.

In an effort to deal with victims of sexual violence against children, an adequate treatment has been carried out by professional teams of the Regional Child Protection Commission (KPAD) of Bangka Belitung Islands Province which encompasses commissioners of the relevant Regional Child Protection Commission, psychologists, hospitals, and lawyers to the prosecutor's office, religious courts, district courts, police, or religious and community leaders. In this process of handling child sexual abuse, this therapy hopefully helps victims heal their mental health problems and promote the social function of the children. These are children's rights and include also special protections through education on reproductive health, religious and moral values, or being informed about laws (Nursiti et al., 2019). Therefore, the sexual violence against children is an increasingly complex problems necessarily to take serious action in dealing with the rise of cases in order to reduce these crimes.

Given the aforementioned literature, it seems to be that availability of research reports in the locus related the treatments handled by counselors and child workers at the Bangka Belitung Islands Province are inadequate. Many research reports connective to the topic are based on rigorous studies in other provinces outside Bangka Belitung ranging from roles of family and

parents in solving problems of children sexual abuse (Nursiti et al., 2019; Solehati et al., 2021), the stress disorder suffered by children victims of sexual violence (Fatmawati, 2016), roles of society and academics to take stand for rejecting sexual abuse against children (Fitri et al., 2021; Nisah, 2017), to roles of provincial governments to combat such cases (Nashriyah et al, 2021; Nursiti et al., 2019). Thus, to address the gap, this study aims to carry out an in-depth exploration of how the Regional Child Protection Commission (KPAD) of the Bangka Belitung Islands Province handles the children victims of sexual violence.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Situations of Sexual Abuse Against Children

Sexual abuse of a child may surface through a broad range of physical, behavioral, and social symptoms, and some of these symptoms may not be the results of sexual abuse (Glicken, 2016). For example, a child may report sexual activities to a friend, classmate, teacher, friend's mother, or other trusted adult. The disclosure may be direct or indirect. However, it is common for the disclosure of chronic sexual abuse to be delayed, or the child may wear torn, stained, or bloody underclothing that are discovered at school or a friend's home. The child may have an injury that is unusual for a specific age group and can only be contracted by sexual activity. Thus, this may happen before, and knowledge of the child's medical history is very important (DePanfillis & Salus, 2002). The injuries often have discrepancies or are inconsistent with medical evaluation when parents or caretakers try to give explanations. Uneven teeth may also be a sign of sexual abuse, especially in younger children due to it might indicate prolonged oral sex (Glicken, 2016).

Another example of child sexual abuse is pregnancy. Pregnancy of a young female, regardless of age, does not constitute reasonable suspicion of sexual abuse because it may be the result of consensual sex between minors close in age. This activity might be considered a reason for prosecution of statutory rape. When the pregnancy is the result of coercion, or when there is a significant difference between the young female and her partner, it may indicate sexual abuse, and this situation must be reported (Glicken, 2016).

Of the given situations of the sexual abuse against children, the term sexual abuse according to the United Nations Human Rights (UNHR) (2014) is inclusive in sexual violence which means:

“a form of gender-based violence and encompasses any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, or otherwise directed against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting. Sexual violence takes multiple forms and includes rape, sexual abuse ... castration and force nudity.”

Ashford et al. (2016, p. 315) have defined child sexual abuse as:

“...typically refers to various forms of touching, penetration, and exploitation. *Molestation* is the term used to describe inappropriate touching -- which may or may not involve genital contact -- of minors. *Exploitation* refers to involving a child in sexual activities, such as prostitution or pornography. *Penetration* includes oral, anal, or genital contact and can involve the use of body parts (fingers, penis) of objects.”

Given the definitions, sexual violence can involve unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature under certain conditions, such as (1) submission to such conduct is required as a condition of economic or personal interest, and (2) submission to such condition is used as a basis for decisions which affect an individual economic or personal needs, and such conduct results in hostile, intimidating, anger, or anxiety. Furthermore, sexual violence always involves elements of unequal and unbalanced power and coercion. It sometimes involves promising a victim a reward or threatening a punishment on the basis of the victim's sexual cooperation (Almunanda, 2022). Other times it involves becoming overly and inappropriately personal with a victim, either by sharing intimacies or prying into the victim's personal life (Zastrow & Kirst-Ashman, 2007).

2.2. Previous Related Studies

Relevant studies have been identified to this research, which have guided us to locate the studies inside our research project. Many studies we investigated have the objectives to explore the position of children as victims witnessing sexual abuse cases. Some studies have revealed that children victims are often afraid to witness even though they themselves are victims. For example, a study by Dewi (2018) scrutinized the focus on the roles of the Regional Child Protection (KPAD) of Bangka Belitung Islands Province in protecting the rights of child victims from sexual abuse. Law enforcement has been implemented, and this showed that the KPAD has protected the children who are victims of sexual abuse. This is accordingly similar with the primary functions of the KPAD which it socializes the laws, collects information, and accommodates complaint, and observes the victims. This study also is in line with Fitriani's (2017) study focusing on the protection of law towards children as witnesses of rape in order to claim services and law advocacy.

Additionally, Fariani (2018) has scrutinized her study on the use of electronic letters as a medium of counseling for women as victims of date violence. The study was conducted at Rifka Annisa Women Crisis Center in Yogyakarta which showed that the benefits of the electronic letters as the medium of counseling are practical, confidential, easily accessed, protective, especially from the partner's threatening, shame of leaving home, and economically efficient. This all aims to help the victims solve their concern and, in turn, can make self-determination (Fariani, 2018). Similarly, Aeni's (2002) study on the messages of *dakwa* for helping the victims of sexual violence at the Rifka Annisa Women Crisis Center Yogyakarta can be done through methods of prevention and curative. The messages were channeled through leaflets, magazines, articles, seminars, lectures, and discussions. The role of the Rifka Annisa Women Crisis Center for the curative prevention is to understand the problems of the victims so that they emotionally feel secured (Aeni, 2002).

Anggreini (2009) has confirmed the previous studies that many victims of sexual abuse are children. Anggreini viewed data from the perspectives of Islamic and positive laws, as both have the concerns to mitigate the sexual abuses of underage children. Interestingly, most cases found that most perpetrators are adults in the family or the adults who have familial relationship with the children (Anggreini, 2009). Still, research conducted by Pauziah (2018) has focused on the effective use of psychodrama to eradicate child anxiety due to sexual violence in the orphanage "Kemuning" of Palembang. She reported the psychological

consequence that was felt by a client initialed “C” was the highest level due to the sexual offense. Symptoms appeared in the client were acute anxiety, emotional stress, explosive anger, rage, lack of energy, feelings of isolation, insomnia, lack of concentration, desertion, urinary problem, headache, loneliness, guilt, and nervous. To address the concerns, the use of psychodrama was considered effective because the social worker could minimize tensions of the client, and the client could overcome the stress by acting out (Pauziah, 2018). As mentioned by Forte (2017, p. 78), the psychodrama emphasizes “the active and creative involvement of clients in the reenactment of challenging life scripts, offering dozens of interventions for enriching the client’s to perform social roles successfully.” Huwaidah (2011) maintained that the model of guiding children victims of sexual abuse is through a direct service method such as playing, drawing, story telling, and chatting. In brief, there are similarities of methods in handling cases of the child sexual abuse found in the aforementioned studies, and to track these, we focus on practices of mitigating the sexual abuse which are conducted by the KPAD of Bangka Belitung Islands Province through the perspective of Islamic guidance and counseling.

3. METHOD

The present study is a type of field research using qualitative descriptive research methods (Marlow, 2001; Wolcott, 2011). Qualitative descriptive research design captures data that describe on the details of the written text form or people's oral or interview that refers to a face-to-face verbal interchange, in which one person, the interviewer, attempts to elicit information or expressions of opinion or belief from and another person or persons (Mishler, 1996). A similar concept of this method is also mentioned by Kahn and Cannell (1997) that the term interview refers to a specialized pattern of verbal interaction, initiated for a specific purpose, and focused on some specific content area, with consequent elimination of extraneous material. Additionally, the interview is a pattern of interaction in which the role relationship of interviewer and respondent is highly specialized, its specific characteristics depending somewhat on the purpose and character of the interviews. In this research, we also observed behaviors of the respondents to validate what was uttered orally (Leedy et al., 2019; Strauss & Corbin, 2008).

The research was conducted at the Regional Child Protection Commission (KPAD) of the Bangka Belitung Islands Province. The informants are selected as they are deemed the most knowledgeable or authorized to provide valid information such as advisors and psychologists. In this study, they must meet specified criteria. First, advisors, coaches or psychologists at the Regional Child Protection Commission of the Bangka Belitung Islands Province had provided assistance and counseling as well as information to victims of sexual violence, given assistance and counseling, and handled various cases of children victims of sexual violence at this institution. Second, they had been working for four years. Table 1 gives the reader brief information about three informants that we interviewed.

Table 1.

Brief Profile of the Informants

No	Initial	Age	Position
1	TM	53 Years	Supervisor (Commissioner of Education)
2	NI	35 Years	Counselor (Commissioner of Parenting)
3	YS	33 Years	Supervisor (Commissioner of Education)

Data collection techniques in this research were carried out in three ways. First, we conducted observations to monitor the implementation in dealing with cases of sexual violence victims occurring at the Regional Child Protection Commission (KPAD) of the Bangka Belitung Islands Province. This technique was conducted as scientists can only work based on facts about the real world obtained through observation. Second, in an unstructured interview with counselors, the information about treatment for sexual violence victims was clearly obtained. Third, the analysis of documentation was used to investigate the social interaction activities for children with speech disorders, such as career guidance services (Lieblich et al., 2008; Lincoln & Guba, 1995; Seidman, 2016). While the data was analyzed using Miles et al.'s (2014) interactive technique. In this method, the analysis went through in three stages: (1) reduction, (2) data presentation, (3) conclusion drawing and verification (Teddlie & Tashakkori, 2019). To get a comprehensive result, the analysis use interactive method and lengthy discussion (Miles et al., 2014).

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

To answer the research problem, we have conducted interviews with supervisors and counselors about the contribution of the Regional Child Protection Commission (KPAD) in dealing with sexual violence victims against children in the Bangka Belitung Islands Province as presented in themes.

4.1. Offering Assistance

The Regional Child Protection Commission (KPAD) provides an assistance service for victims of sexual violence in the Bangka Belitung Islands Province. The purpose of this assistance is to improve children's mental health so that they are able to undergo psychological recovery processes and recovery procedures. The officers accompany the victims to hospital when they are checking their physical health condition or pregnancy as a result of sexual violence. In terms of law service, the victims are accompanied to the police station and the court.

This assistance in dealing with the victims is given in such way that their family receive help, and the burden of mental health problems can be relieved. The Regional Child Protection Commission (KPAD) has a positive effects for the community that would be a role model or an exemplary to ease other's burden. In this case, life is essentially the expression of reality life in that people should help each other and lighten others' burden. This view is in accordance with TM's expression as a member of the commissioner at the Regional Child Protection Commission (KPAD) of the Bangka Belitung Islands Province:

“We provide this assistance service if they need to be accompanied to make police report because not all victims of sexual violence are brave enough to report also provide information or go to the hospital if they need a post-mortem or if they have need some help in relation to other institutions, we will assist all of them if there is an agreement and the victims really want us to be with them.”

A similar statement was also expressed by NI:

“Children who experience sexual violence, like rape or others, will be provided with assistance. This assistance is for children who are victims of rape by their stepfather, neighbors or others, so the child becomes pregnant and requires an examination to the hospital and so we will deliver and assist. If not accompanied later, the hospital will ask who the perpetrator is, thus making the child embarrassed. So, to avoid all that we explain to the hospital that the child is a victim of sexual violence, it could be that the hospital will feel compassion and can provide optimal services to children.”

Furthermore, Mrs. YS also revealed:

“As the assistants, we will provide assistance as long as the child and the victims of sexual violence need it from us. They will receive practical programs such as lawyer assistance, health care, psychological support and other assistance.”

From the results of several interviews above, the Regional Child Protection Commission (KPAD) make a substantial contribution towards victims of sexual violence against children in the Bangka Belitung Islands Province. This institution give assistance for victims of sexual violence and accompany them in several agencies to improve the mentality of children.

Other real assistance is rendered to pregnant victims of sexual violence and those who need a help to apply for admission to hospital. In this case, the KPAD provides a valuable assistance with accompanying the children to the hospital as well as explain to the doctor about their condition as victims of sexual violence. Such a condition rouses a considerable sympathy for the hospital and thus, they will be appreciated and receive an intensive service at the hospital.

The above interview is pursuant to observations in that the officers provide assistance practically to victims of sexual violence at several places such as the hospitals, police station and courts.

4.2. Recovering Trauma

Sexual violence is a serious crime that is prohibited by religious law and is not justified by the norms in our social life. Apart from that, this is not commendable and brings about deterrent effect on victims of sexual violence, like trauma. They often experience a terrible. Fear of men is an illustration of their trauma, in which sexual violence victims do not want to meet every man, yet do not intent to interact with the environment and close themselves off from social life. This certainly has a great influence on the survival of children in the future.

As the importance of recovering their trauma, officers or supervisors from the KPAD Province formulate several strategies or certain steps. As the supervisor, Ms. TM said:

“With respect to children’s trauma, we don’t have a specific strategy because we really can’t get rid of the trauma. Psychologist usually overcome the trauma, but we still try to

help them subside the panic when they face trauma. So it's impossible to block out trauma, it cannot be removed. We just ask them to avoid things that remind them of the trauma.”

Then Mrs. NI said:

“I personally feel sorry for those who have experienced sexual violence, especially since they have experienced such a deep trauma. We ask them to avoid the insistent thoughts and feelings of traumatic stress and encourage them to participate in physical activities like playing.”

The several interviews above have clearly shown the Regional Child Protection Commission (KPAD) of the Bangka Belitung Islands Province in dealing with victims of sexual violence against children in the Bangka Belitung Islands Province is to restore or recover children's trauma. Psychological trauma lead to struggling with upsetting emotions, memories and anxiety that won't go away. Encouraging children to go outside to play can help them facilitate recovery trauma.

4.3. Boosting Motivation

The case of sexual violence against children can alter the way they see the world. They may find it more difficult to trust and bring about poor view of themselves. For these reasons, the supervisor at the KPAD tries to be able to help the victims to be more confident. According to Mrs. TM as the supervisor, to build up the victim's confidence there were some points:

“To bolster the victims' confidence, the children can rise up and set up the future success in the same situation so that they may feel that they have the same problem and then can move on with their lives.”

Children who experience sexual violence also have felt worried to have a partner in the future. They perceive humiliated because they lost their virginity due to rape. Then the officer or counselor provides an understanding of the meaning of marriage and virginity. Mrs. TM stated:

“Children who experience sexual violence as rape victims find it difficult to meet a future spouse. There are still some people who like him/her, are afraid of how to get married later. Even the victims feels humiliated and are perceived to be contemptuous by others. Then, we try to talk to children. For example, now you have lost your virginity, what is a virgin? When a woman becomes a wife or gets married, is the virgin lost in one day? Or if the person who is married with the status of not being a virgin will not be respected by her husband? No, right? Then the person who is married with the status of a widow, she is also not a virgin anymore right, but still loved and cherished by her husband.”

Apparently, it is obviously seen that the counselors are contributing considerably to the victims. They uplift their spirit and foster enthusiasm to have the future's success though some illustrations. Let's say, people can rise up with the same situation. Furthermore, to boost their motivation, understanding of the concept of marriage and virginity and matchmaking are

necessary for them. Then the counselor can motivate them to learn, broaden their horizons as well as improve their knowledge and skills at work.

Children who are victims of sexual violence will experience acute trauma and mental stress or even depression. They feel inferior, ashamed, hopeless, their future is lost and they are no longer enthusiastic in living lives. To give you an idea, rape victims are afraid to their condition because they lost their virgin. Also, they are worried about their future marriage and soul mate. It is natural since men who are still bachelor sometimes find it difficult to accept a woman who is no longer virgin to be a wife.

The children's emotional experiences are essentially concerned with a broad sense of humanity. In response to these experiences, the Regional Child Protection Commission (KPAD) of the Bangka Belitung Islands Province strives to highly motivate children who are victims of sexual violence so that they live their lives more energetically. The officers always give cheerful faces and sweet smiles to children. Accordingly, the children feel more comfortable and able to receive the supervisor or the officer's messages. The emotions of one person affect the emotion of another person. When one feels sad, the other person gets sad too and then the sadness spreads to other people.

Therefore, if a person wants the people around him to always be cheerful, then he must spread a smile to others. With a smile, sadness and lack of enthusiasm will fly away. The officers of the KPAD give bright smiles when providing motivation to child victims of violence. This shows sincerity and enthusiasm and can create a pleasant atmosphere. With words or motivational sentences and cheerful smiles, children become more enthusiastic and at the same time they also provide examples of people who can strengthen to rise and blossom out of adversity due to sexual violence that befall them. This certainly can make children grow up with a new spirit of life. Moreover, during observations, we also noticed that officers were providing motivation to victims of sexual violence in a room.

4.4. Providing Counseling

To facilitate the work of officers from the Regional Child Protection Commission (KPAD) of the Bangka Belitung Islands Province when they have problems in assisting children as victims of sexual violence, a special approach and counseling is needed as basically children, aged 13 years and under in particular mostly still have a sense of fear and anxiety towards new people.

It leads to a difficulty in the assistance process, as consequence, the KPAD takes several approaches and counseling to help, considering that children still feel pressured and are afraid to tell about the sexual violence. The counseling is usually done during the assistance process since most children are still depressed in which such a condition will be very difficult to communicate with them. In line with this view, Mrs. TM noted:

“At the KPAD, most of the victims of sexual violence against children are still traumatized, afraid and difficult to talk to or communicate with when they come to report. Then, we must facilitate a counseling process. The counseling is usually provided at a private practice, so that the victims feel relaxed to tell what really happens. Therefore, it enables them to give an individual counseling. If the approach and counseling process does not work, the KPAD will cooperate with other parties who

are more expert in their fields, such as in collaboration with psychologists. It is hoped that this counseling can make it easier for the facilitators to communicate with victims.”

Furthermore, Mrs. NI also revealed:

“First, an emotional approach is employed to the victims of sexual violence because the emotional condition at the age of under 12 is still very unstable. Before giving counseling, an initial assessment is undertaken so that victims of sexual violence feel more relaxed and want to talk about what has happened to them. The majority of their emotional conditions are still unstable and this is an obstacle for aiding the counseling and assistance process for the child.”

It is apparent from the interviews that to ease the counseling process to the victims of child sexual violence, the Regional Child Protection Commission (KPAD) of the Bangka Belitung Islands Province invites experts and professionals like psychologists. The psychologist will dig deeper into the condition or problems of the victim and explain the chronology of their response to violence actions in order to get information as well as find solutions to the problems of victims of sexual violence.

Based on the interview above, to help the victims of sexual abuse individual counseling is offered and an emotional approach is also employed because their emotional conditions are poor and they are more likely to be introvert and do not interact very well with others. This is a hurdle for the KPAD officers to handle them. Also, during observation, we saw officers giving counseling for victims of sexual violence in a room. It is pursuant to what narration in the interviews above.

4.5. Facilitating Legal Assistance

Advisors and officers also seek legal advice for child victims of sexual violence, as expressed by Mrs. TM:

“In dealing with the problem of sexual violence, we provide legal assistance for victims of sexual violence who proceed some steps in legal case.”

Furthermore, Mrs. NI stated:

“In regard to children who get legal assistance, we surely made a social report. For example, social reports include the name of the child, the condition of the child, the condition of the family, and the effects of sexual abuse on children. If there is no social report, the police report will be rejected by the Prosecutor as the evidence is not strong enough. The prosecutors may consider when making a decision on social report from the KPAD. This report is important factor in deciding whether to impose severe sanctions for the perpetrators. If the KPAD contributes to process for case, the prosecutors and judges will no longer hesitate to take a position.”

Mrs. YS also revealed:

“For children who require legal services, we will provide legal aid to file a report to the prosecutor.”

It is clearly seen that the Regional Child Protection Commission (KPAD) kindly provide legal assistance to children who are victims of sexual violence who wish to file claims against perpetrators in legal case. The aim of legal aid is to obtain equal recognition before

law as well as equal access to justice. Sexual violence actions are certainly inhumane acts, then the severe punishment is expected to be meted out to the sexual offenders.

In regard with the concept of fairness in law enforcement, all the guilty must be punished and a fair trial is still possible. The supervisors and social service officers, the victims and their family fully expect that the law enforcement should be carried out. Also, the interview's results above were strengthened by observations that showed the officers of KPAD really help the victims with a legal assistance.

Societal worrisome of children's safety is because there are lots of violence subjected to the children, particularly in Bangka Belitung Islands Province. Society need to take concrete actions, such as care, where children play, with whom the children spend time, and to who they are close. Then as when the children become victims of sexual violence, their family should report the case to police and to the KPAD that partners and tackles the problem related with child sexual violence.

The perpetrator should be brought to the court and, if convicted, the perpetrator must be jailed according to the law in order to give a lesson for society that sexual violence against children is misconduct. Given that many child victims of sexual violence in this province, governmental and non-governmental institutions should shoulder in shoulder to mitigate the problem. As mentioned by Fitri et al. (2021), academics whether are students, researchers, or faculty members should take stand for this matter. Furthermore, according to Nashriyah et al. (2021) and Nursiti et al. (2019), the government of Aceh Province has sought to combat the child sexual violence through education and adequate information being socialized to society in order to prevent the negative consequences of the sexual violence as well as cure the child victims via various humane programs such as trauma healing, rehabilitation, physical and psychological restoration, economic empowerment, education, and preparation for life development. As such, the contribution of the Regional Child Protection Commission (KPAD) of Bangka Belitung Islands Province in dealing with the children victims of sexual violence and abuse should be supported by local stake holders, such as educators, activists, local governments, local cultural and religious leaders, and the KPAD. These organic and non-organic governmental bodies have tremendous roles according to their capacities as a handful of researchers supported these findings (Fatmawati, 2016; Fitri et al., 2021; Nashriyah et al., 2021; Nisah, 2017, Nursiti et al., 2019).

Given the study's objective which is to explore how the KPAD of Bangka Belitung shared their roles in ameliorating sexual abuses by adults towards the children in Bangka Belitung Islands Provinces, the results showed that it has functioned properly in fulfilling mandates as to combat the sexual abuse and violence. The KPAD in its roles has facilitated the children victims by rehabilitating their physical injuries and healing their psychological wounds via various programs, such as education, play, and empowerment. Children who showed lack of motivation in the programs were also encouraged to boost their spirits in order to recover for visioning a new normal life. Based on the interviews and the investigation of previous research reports, there is a slight difference of programs for children victims of sexual abuses between a KPAD and the other because they are under coordination of Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAI). So, they have similarities in terms of the mission, vision, and programs (KPAI, 2016), but treatments of cases may vary based on the local uniqueness.

5. CONCLUSION

In the light of the aforementioned results and discussion, the role of mentors and counselors is very important to deal with the sexual violence. They basically make intervention to solve the negative impacts on account of sexual violence against children. Also both counselors and mentors strive to return the social function of victims of violence and protect their human rights. The Regional Child Protection Commission (KPAD) of the Bangka Belitung Islands Province significantly contributes to cope with victims of sexual violence against children such as giving assistance, surviving trauma, boosting motivation, offering counseling, and giving assistance for legal justice. With the treatment, the Regional Child Protection Commission (KPAD) of the Bangka Belitung Islands Province also has the opportunity to assist the Regional Government of the Bangka Belitung Islands Province in facilitating the needs of the community who are able to contribute considerably to deal with the issue of sexual violence against children.

As the intention of the study is to explore suitable methods of rehabilitating children victims of sexual violence in the province, it has a limitation in terms of numbers of informant elicitation due to lack of availability of social workers or child workers in place. Further research may take a wide range of informants in several provinces by conducting comparative studies with larger sampling so that generalizability is considered adequate. This study recommended that the government should accommodate more workers with educational backgrounds as social work, psychology, counseling, law, or religious education for employing them in the nationwide KPADs so that they can help realize the government programs of combating child sexual violence in Indonesia.

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