



Effectiveness of Rehabilitation Programs for Child Trafficking Victims in Indonesia

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Abstract: Child trafficking is a type of crime that significantly impacts victims' lives, causing physical, mental, and social trauma. Rehabilitation programs are essential to help child trafficking victims recover and continue their lives. These programs are designed to meet various victim needs, including psychological recovery, physical health, education, and social reintegration. However, many question the effectiveness of these rehabilitation programs, particularly regarding victims' specific needs, available support levels, and how well they help victims readapt to society. The focus of this research is to evaluate the effectiveness of rehabilitation programs offered to child trafficking victims in Indonesia. These programs are expected to address the deep trauma experienced by victims, improve physical health impaired by exploitation, and provide necessary support and skills for social and economic reintegration. However, field evidence shows that many problems arise during program implementation. These include resource limitations, victims' lack of access to mental health services, and insufficient cooperation between relevant agencies managing rehabilitation.

Keyword: Rehabilitation, Child Trafficking Victims, Physical Recovery, Psychological Trauma, Social Reintegration..

INTRODUCTION

Child trafficking represents one of the most brutal and complex forms of transnational crime. Trafficked children are not only exploited for forced labor or sexual exploitation but are also trafficked for illegal practices such as unauthorized adoption, domestic servitude, and organ trafficking. Numerous countries are implicated in child trafficking phenomena, whether as countries of origin, transit, or destination. As reports of human trafficking continue to increase annually, this issue has become increasingly alarming in Indonesia. Given its large population

and significant economic disparities, Indonesia has emerged as a primary target for human trafficking networks, particularly concerning children.

For instance, in cases of child exploitation, such actions directly contravene Article 76I of Law Number 35 of 2014 concerning Child Protection (Law No. 35/2014, 2014). Additionally, child victims frequently experience physical, sexual, and emotional abuse. This violence often affects their mental and social well-being in the long term. Therefore, rehabilitation constitutes a crucial component in the recovery process of child trafficking victims. These programs aim to restore victims' physical and mental health while assisting their readaptation to new environments. In this regard, Indonesia has adopted several laws to protect children and trafficking victims. The Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAI) and various nongovernmental organizations collaborate under Law No. 21 of 2007 concerning the Eradication of Human Trafficking Crime and Law No. 35 of 2014 concerning Child Protection to safeguard children from exploitation and provide rehabilitation assistance. However, despite existing regulations, these rehabilitation programs are frequently questioned.

One of the most significant challenges in rehabilitating child trafficking victims is ensuring that existing programs can address each victim's unique needs. Since victims' experiences vary considerably, a standardized approach often proves inadequate. Children who have endured severe exploitation require specialized medical care, particularly concerning psychological trauma recovery. Trauma resulting from sexual violence and exploitation can manifest in psychological disorders such as depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Moreover, social reintegration presents substantial challenges, as many victims lack family support or face rejection from their communities.

Furthermore, a significant barrier lies in the availability and accessibility of rehabilitation services. Many victims in rural or remote areas of Indonesia lack adequate access to rehabilitation programs for trafficking victims. A primary constraint in delivering optimal rehabilitation services is the insufficiency of adequate facilities and experienced personnel. Additionally, rehabilitation program implementation remains fragmented due to limited cooperation among non-governmental organizations, local communities, and government institutions in addressing child trafficking issues. However, strong coordination among various stakeholders is essential for providing comprehensive victim protection. For rehabilitation programs to succeed, they must extend beyond mere physical recovery. Life skills, education, and psychosocial support must be provided to child trafficking victims to rebuild their selfconfidence and prepare them for improved life prospects. To ensure victims do not return to environments vulnerable to exploitation, rehabilitation must also encompass necessary legal support and social assistance. In this context, community and family support play crucial roles in facilitating victims' social reintegration process.

With the aim of identifying barriers and opportunities in the implementation of existing rehabilitation programs in Indonesia, this research focuses on evaluating the effectiveness of these programs. Furthermore, this article aims to provide recommendations for enhancing the quality and scope of rehabilitation services to meet the specific needs of each trafficking victim. The authors emphasize the importance of a holistic approach to rehabilitation, encompassing not only physical recovery but also sustained social and psychological support.

The problem formulation contains article questions that must be explained in the discussion and answered in the conclusion.

METHOD

This study employs a normative juridical approach, examining the legal framework governing rehabilitation programs for child trafficking victims in Indonesia. The methodology

encompasses analysis of pertinent domestic and international regulations, along with applicable legal principles regarding child trafficking victim protection. The research foundation comprises legal behavioral products, including case law analysis, statutory interpretation, theoretical frameworks, jurisprudential doctrines, and fundamental legal principles (Muhaimin, 2020, p. 48). This normative juridical research will examine several key regulations, including:

- Law No. 21 of 2007 concerning the Eradication of Human Trafficking Crime, which serves as Indonesia's primary legislation for combating human trafficking, including child trafficking; and
- Law No. 35 of 2014 concerning Child Protection, which provides special protection for children who become victims of crime, including human trafficking.
- Government Regulations and Ministerial Regulations related to further provisions on the rehabilitation of child trafficking victims
- International legal instruments such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Palermo Protocol, which serve as references for nations, including Indonesia, in providing protection for children against trafficking and exploitation.

This study aims to evaluate the consistency and adequacy of existing regulations in addressing trafficking victims' needs, alongside their practical implementation in rehabilitation programs. The research seeks to identify deficiencies within the current legal framework while proposing recommendations for strengthening legal protections for trafficking victims. Emphasis is placed on examining the legal and normative dimensions of rehabilitation programs and assessing the effectiveness of existing regulations in safeguarding victims' rights. The core analysis focuses on current legislative frameworks and their foundational role in rehabilitation program implementation

This research employs a descriptive-analytical approach. The descriptive aspect provides a comprehensive overview and explanation of rehabilitation programs for child trafficking victims as regulated within Indonesian legislation. In this context, the research examines various relevant laws, such as Law No. 21 of 2007 concerning the Eradication of Human Trafficking Crime and Law No. 35 of 2014 concerning Child Protection, and how these laws regulate rehabilitation mechanisms for victims. After providing a brief overview of applicable regulations, the research transitions to analysis, evaluating the effectiveness of laws governing rehabilitation programs for trafficking victims. This study will assess the implementation quality of these regulations and whether existing rehabilitation programs meet victims' physical, mental, and social recovery needs. Furthermore, this analysis will identify challenges and obstacles encountered in implementing rehabilitation programs and provide recommendations for enhancing the quality and effectiveness of these programs. The research employs a descriptive-analytical approach, aiming not only to explain the legal conditions and rehabilitation program implementation but also to provide critical evaluation that can serve as a foundation for developing better policies to protect trafficking victims in Indonesia. The primary data in this research derives from existing sources, including official reports, legal documents, and academic literature. This data type is utilized to examine relevant legislation and legal concepts underlying rehabilitation programs for child trafficking victims. The research will employ secondary data to analyze existing legal documents and compare regulatory implementation with studies or reports from relevant institutions. This research is normative juridical in nature and emphasizes the examination of existing legislation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Evaluation of Legal Policies Concerning Child Trafficking Victims' Rehabilitation Victim rehabilitation represents a core priority within the implementation framework of the Human

Trafficking Eradication Law. The comprehensive rehabilitation approach integrates physical, psychological, and social rehabilitation components. Governmental responsibilities encompass the provision of psychosocial support, educational services, mental health interventions, and psychiatric care. The effectiveness of victim rehabilitation programs necessitates strengthened capacity and involvement of non-governmental institutions. Such collaborative efforts ensure victims receive comprehensive support systems essential for life reconstruction following trafficking-induced trauma (Susanti et al., 2022).

According to Law No. 21/2007 concerning the Eradication of Human Trafficking Crime in Indonesia, trafficking victims are entitled to protection and care. This legislation establishes fundamental principles and governmental responsibilities for protecting and rehabilitating trafficking victims. The involvement of non-governmental organizations and international cooperation represents essential components in implementing protection and rehabilitation measures, thereby enhancing the efficiency of these efforts. The protection of trafficking victims mandated by this law encompasses physical protection alongside the protection of victims' rights, including rights to privacy, security, and freedom. Protection initiatives commence upon victim identification. Authorities collaborate with non-governmental organizations to provide safe shelter, medical services, and other basic necessities. Furthermore, the government bears responsibility for providing legal assistance to victims, including support during legal proceedings against traffickers. Non-governmental organizations focusing on human rights and victim protection frequently collaborate with the government in delivering these services. To determine the extent to which preventive measures stipulated in Law Number 21 of 2007 can positively impact human trafficking mitigation in Indonesia, continuous evaluation is required regarding public awareness, participation in prevention programs, and inter-agency cooperation (Pratama, 2023).

The involvement of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in victim protection and rehabilitation is crucial for the success of these efforts. Frequently, these organizations possess more extensive expertise and experience in handling specific elements related to the protection and rehabilitation of trafficking victims. They can expedite the identification process, provide more focused services, and implement approaches that are more sensitive to victims' needs. Additionally, NGOs can serve as intermediaries between victims and authorities, facilitating victims' access to healthcare, education, and employment services that can aid their recovery. However, challenges in international cooperation may arise, particularly due to varying regulations and methodologies across countries. The establishment of joint guidelines and regulatory harmonization can constitute significant steps toward enhancing this cooperation. Joint evaluation and reporting mechanisms can also help measure the success and effectiveness of protection and rehabilitation programs internationally. Moreover, the government's role in developing policies that support victim protection and rehabilitation is paramount. Active government involvement in policy-making that prioritizes human rights promotes the implementation of legislation. Government and non-governmental organizations collaborate to formulate, implement, and evaluate protection and rehabilitation policies, resulting in a robust system.

To address these challenges, several improvements can be implemented to enhance the rehabilitation and protection system. First, the government must increase budget allocations to support protection and rehabilitation programs, including collaboration with non-governmental organizations in managing and providing services. Second, to ensure protection and rehabilitation efforts operate synergistically and in a coordinated manner, inter-agency coordination must be strengthened and international cooperation mechanisms must be reinforced. Third, there needs to be enhanced public education regarding victims' rights and

human trafficking to reduce stigma and support victims. Educational programs involving international cooperation and non-governmental organizations can help improve public understanding. Fourth, to ensure that implemented policies yield significant results, routine evaluation of protection and rehabilitation program performance is necessary. The involvement of non-governmental organizations and international cooperation can facilitate these evaluations by leveraging diverse experiences and perspectives (Adudu, 2022).

Implementation of Rehabilitation Programs for Child Trafficking Victims in Indonesia

Article 51 paragraph (1) of the Republic of Indonesia Law Number 21 of 2007 concerning the Eradication of Human Trafficking Crime states that "Victims have the right to receive health rehabilitation, social rehabilitation, repatriation, and social reintegration from the government if they suffer physical or psychological harm due to human trafficking crimes." The primary objective of rehabilitation is to help individuals achieve maximum physical, mental, social, vocational, and economic independence according to their capabilities (Istiningtias, 2014).

The importance of non-governmental organization participation within the international cooperation framework is increasingly emphasized. Through collaboration with international organizations such as UNICEF, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), we can enhance the protection and rehabilitation of human trafficking victims. The cross-cultural experience, resources, and global expertise offered by these organizations can strengthen and enrich national efforts. Furthermore, this cooperation enables information exchange, joint training, and inter-country program coordination to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of victim care and rehabilitation. Overall, the protection and rehabilitation of human trafficking victims in Indonesia depends on cooperation among government, non-governmental organizations, and international partners. By identifying existing barriers and implementing appropriate corrective measures, the protection and rehabilitation system can be strengthened to provide better support to victims and achieve human trafficking eradication objectives.

Rehabilitation programs for child trafficking victims in Indonesia still face numerous challenges, potentially limiting their effectiveness in some cases. While rehabilitation services have been pursued by both government and non-governmental organizations, several systemic issues impede their implementation. The following are key success factors and barriers in rehabilitating child trafficking victims:

1. Service Accessibility and Availability
2. Rehabilitation Facility Capacity and Infrastructure
3. Continuous Psychological Rehabilitation
4. Social Reintegration and Stigmatization Issues
5. Limitations in Legal Protection Framework
6. Inter-institutional Collaboration

To improve the outcomes of rehabilitation programs for child trafficking victims in Indonesia, several key aspects need to be addressed. These include enhancing the capacity of rehabilitation services, particularly in remote areas. Additional training for professionals such as psychologists, social workers, and medical personnel who focus on child victim care is essential. Public awareness campaigns and educational programs are also critical to reduce stigma against victims and encourage social reintegration. Strengthened law enforcement is necessary to protect the rights of victims and accelerate legal processes for perpetrators. Finally,

improved monitoring and evaluation of rehabilitation outcomes are required to ensure that rehabilitation services effectively support the long-term recovery of victims.

The Effectiveness of Rehabilitation Programs in Victim Recovery

According to legal explanations, health rehabilitation refers to the restoration of the physical and psychological condition of victims, while social rehabilitation refers to the recovery from social mental disorders and the restoration of social functioning to enable victims to resume their roles appropriately within their families and communities (Farhana, 2010).

Overall, the protection and rehabilitation of human trafficking victims in Indonesia rely on collaboration between the government, non-governmental organizations, and international cooperation. By identifying existing barriers and taking appropriate steps to address them, the protection and rehabilitation system can be strengthened to provide better support to victims and achieve the goal of eradicating human trafficking. The following are some elements that influence the effectiveness of these rehabilitation programs:

1. Physical Trauma Recovery

The health condition of victims is usually well addressed by rehabilitation programs from a physical treatment perspective. Shelters and safe houses provide medical services for physical injuries, sexually transmitted infections (for victims of sexual exploitation), and basic care. In terms of effectiveness, the physical treatment is generally adequate, but there are geographic challenges and resource limitations in remote areas.

2. Psychological Trauma Recovery

The most challenging aspect of rehabilitation programs is the psychological recovery of victims. Many victims suffer severe trauma, such as sexual exploitation, violence, or slavery. In terms of effectiveness, psychological trauma recovery is relatively low due to the lack of long-term support and the persistent stigma in society.

3. Social Reintegration

Social reintegration is very difficult, as it aims to help victims return to a normal life. Rehabilitation programs strive to assist victims in obtaining re-education and skills training to prepare them for life outside. In terms of effectiveness, it is moderate or depends on community support and the availability of strong reintegration programs. Many victims still face social barriers after reintegration.

4. Law Enforcement and Victim Protection

In terms of law enforcement, rehabilitation programs often work with legal institutions to protect victims during the judicial process. However, some victims feel unsafe due to slow legal processes and legal uncertainty. Human traffickers sometimes threaten victims while they serve as witnesses in court, prolonging their trauma. In terms of effectiveness, protection outside shelters is limited, particularly due to slow legal processes and ongoing threats from perpetrators.

5. Program Monitoring and Evaluation

Rehabilitation programs lack a consistent monitoring and evaluation system. There is no reliable way to determine if victims have truly recovered socially, psychologically, or physically in the long term. Most programs focus solely on initial treatment and do not track how victims progress after leaving shelters. In terms of effectiveness, long-term evaluation is low, making it difficult to comprehensively assess the success of rehabilitation programs. Overall, the success of rehabilitation programs for the recovery of child trafficking victims in Indonesia varies depending on the available services, the level of support provided, and the community's readiness to reintegrate the victims. Psychological trauma requires more attention—especially long-term support—than physical trauma. Since victims are often

stigmatized, their recovery is frequently delayed, making social reintegration a major challenge. To ensure more comprehensive and sustainable recovery for victims, it is necessary to improve monitoring and evaluation systems, as well as to enhance coordination between relevant parties.

CONCLUSION

Indonesia has demonstrated its commitment to combating human trafficking by ratifying Law Number 21 of 2007 concerning the Eradication of Criminal Acts of Human Trafficking. The implementation of this law depends on preventive measures involving various sectors, strict law enforcement against perpetrators, and protection and rehabilitation for victims. Furthermore, robust legal actions, supported by rigorous investigations and strict enforcement of penalties, indicate that Indonesia will not tolerate human trafficking perpetrators. The rehabilitation and reintegration approach also protects victims by providing psychosocial support, instruction, and skills training to help them recover from trauma and return to normal life.

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