

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF LEGAL PROTECTION FOR CHILDREN AS VICTIMS OF CYBERBULLYING WITHIN THE INDONESIAN LEGAL SYSTEM (A Study at SMA Negeri 9 Bandar Lampung)

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Abstract

Advances in information and communication technology have brought various conveniences to individual life; however, they have also given rise to new forms of criminal activity, including cyberbullying. Such acts can carry psychological, social, and educational consequences, with children and adolescents being particularly vulnerable to becoming victims. This study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of legal protection measures for children who are victims of cyberbullying at SMA Negeri 9 Bandar Lampung, and to identify the factors that contribute to the effectiveness of those measures. The research employs a normative and empirical juridical approach, drawing on primary data obtained through interviews with the Deputy Head of Student Affairs of SMA Negeri 9 Bandar Lampung and the Women's and Children's Service Unit (PPA) of the Bandar Lampung Police, as well as secondary data obtained through literature review. The findings show that legal protection for minors who become victims of cyberbullying has been implemented through preventive and repressive measures. Prevention efforts include awareness campaigns, education on social media use, guidance, supervision, and the cultivation of moral values and legal awareness. Repressive measures, meanwhile, are implemented by handling both victims and perpetrators, providing assistance, mediation, and coaching, as well as facilitating the victim's recovery. Legal, law-enforcement, facility-related, societal, and cultural factors all contribute to the effectiveness of this legal protection.

Keywords: Cyberbullying, Legal Protection, Children, Victims, Legal Effectiveness

INTRODUCTION

As a state founded on the rule of law, Indonesia is committed to building an orderly, safe, just, and prosperous society. A state grounded in the supremacy of law requires that the entire administration of government and law enforcement follow the prevailing legislation. Law is part of social life that continues to evolve alongside societal change. The social, economic, and cultural dynamics that occur cannot be separated from legal development. In this context, law functions not merely as a set of rules but as a policy instrument used to regulate and enforce order within social life.

Indonesia's status as a state of law affirms that the exercise of state power must be subject to law rather than based solely on power itself. This principle establishes law as the primary instrument for regulating and limiting the exercise of state authority in order to prevent the abuse of power. One hallmark of a state grounded in the rule of law is the guarantee of citizens' rights and the application of fair judicial procedures for everyone. In realizing this goal, law enforcement officers play an essential role as the executors of law, tasked with maintaining legal certainty, upholding justice, and creating order within society. Fundamentally, law functions as a set of rules governing human behavior within a social environment, as well as a method for protecting the rights of every individual and upholding order and justice. The application of law must therefore take humanitarian considerations into account, emphasizing the protection of human dignity and interests alongside legal certainty.

In the digital era, rapid advances in information technology have transformed many aspects of human life, including how people communicate and access information. This trajectory reflects a shift from the use of simple tools toward increasingly complex and sophisticated technologies. This transformation has accelerated further with the emergence of Industry 4.0, characterized by the integration of cyber networks, automation, and digital

technology across sectors such as government, the economy, and society. Beyond its many benefits, technological advancement has also opened opportunities for the misuse of the internet to commit crimes. This condition shows that technological progress carries not only positive impacts but also significant challenges regarding safe and responsible use.

Crime is a ubiquitous social phenomenon that is difficult to avoid. Its impact extends well beyond the individual, with the potential to disrupt other areas of life, including security, social stability, the economy, and public order. The development of information technology and the increasing complexity of societal dynamics require criminal law to continuously adapt to new forms of crime. The Criminal Code is now governed by Law Number 1 of 2023, enacted as an effort to modernize national law in line with society's changing values and needs. The purpose of criminal law is to protect victims and ensure justice throughout the sentencing process, in addition to imposing sanctions on offenders.

Social media is used by young people to communicate, build connections, and obtain information quickly. However, this development has also given rise to new concerns, particularly regarding cybercrime and cyberbullying, which have emerged as global issues. According to UNICEF, approximately 45% of adolescents worldwide have experienced online bullying — a figure that has risen sharply in developing countries as a result of widespread technology use unaccompanied by improvements in digital literacy. Cyberbullying is a worldwide phenomenon that continues to grow alongside the increasing use of digital media by children and adolescents. This phenomenon underscores the need for a more comprehensive legal framework to protect vulnerable children.

Cyberbullying is a form of bullying carried out through digital media or the internet with the intent to intimidate, demean, threaten, or humiliate another person. Such acts can take many forms, including the spread of insulting comments, threats, mockery, and other kinds of digital attacks. The emergence of cyberbullying is closely linked to the misuse of information technology and low adherence to social norms and ethics in digital communication. In many cases, such acts are triggered by differences in background such as race, religion, gender, economic status, or personal characteristics of the victim.

Cyberbullying is a widespread problem that can affect children and adolescents both as victims and as perpetrators. Various forms of intimidation including the spread of harmful content, defamation, insults, and other unpleasant behavior in the form of text, images, or video can occur through social media. Unlike cases involving adults, similar conduct carried out by adults is generally categorized as cyber harassment or cyberstalking.

One factor driving the occurrence of cyberbullying is the low awareness among some children and adolescents regarding the ethics of online communication. Many perceive mockery or comments made through social media as mere jokes, even though such acts can cause real psychological distress to others. This shows that the use of digital media without an accompanying understanding of ethical boundaries increases the risk of cyberbullying among internet users. Adolescents' cyberbullying behavior is influenced by how perpetrators perceive and justify their own actions they tend to regard cyberbullying as acceptable behavior or as a form of joking. Preventing cyberbullying therefore cannot rely on sanctions alone; it also requires character building, strengthening empathy, moral education, and raising awareness of the legal and psychological consequences of such acts.

From a victimology perspective, cyberbullying is a criminal act with serious legal, social, and psychological consequences for its victims. Cyberbullying is consistently associated with a decline in the mental health of children and adolescents. Victims often experience emotional distress, anxiety, depression, loneliness, and a decline in the quality of their social relationships. Victimology therefore places victims as a party requiring special attention through adequate protection and recovery. In this context, legal protection for cyberbullying victims must be carried out comprehensively, giving due regard to justice, the victim's recovery, and the effectiveness of the legal mechanisms used to handle such cases.

The government has enacted a number of laws and regulations relevant to protecting minors from various forms of violence in the digital sphere. Every child's right to protection from all forms of violence, including abuse carried out through electronic media, is affirmed by Law Number 35 of 2014 on Child Protection. Given that cyberbullying is a form of verbal violence capable of harming a child's psychological and social development, this protection is essential. The Electronic Information and Transactions Law (UU ITE), currently governed by Law Number 1 of 2024, is likewise relevant to the regulation of cyberbullying alongside the Child Protection Law. Indonesia does not yet have specific regulations that explicitly designate cyberbullying as a distinct criminal offense. However, provisions within the UU ITE and the Criminal Code allow for the prosecution of various acts falling within the category of cyberbullying, including insult, defamation, and threats made through electronic media.

Nevertheless, the existence of such regulations does not fully guarantee the effective enforcement of the law against cyberbullying perpetrators. A number of challenges remain, including limited public awareness of the legal consequences of such acts, low rates of case reporting, and limited understanding of cybercrime among law enforcement officers. Handling cyberbullying therefore requires support from multiple parties so that legal protection for victims can be carried out optimally. Suboptimal law enforcement may allow cyberbullying cases to continue rising and may hinder the fulfillment of victims' rights to protection and justice. Enforcement of existing legal provisions also faces obstacles, particularly in the process of proving cases involving digital evidence. Although various forms of cyberbullying can be prosecuted under the UU ITE and the Criminal Code, the protection and restoration of victims' rights have not been comprehensively regulated, as these regulations still place greater emphasis on perpetrators. As a result, the capacity of the legal system to handle cyberbullying cases needs to be further strengthened, particularly in the area of victim protection.

Research conducted by Touloupis and Athanasiades shows that cyberbullying prevention programs in educational institutions can increase students' knowledge of cyberbullying risks and strengthen their ability to cope with various forms of digital harassment. Such programs focus on strengthening self-esteem, character building, and improving social skills, enabling students to better respect others when using digital media. Pyżalski's research likewise states that the effectiveness of cyberbullying prevention depends on the proactive involvement of educators, students, and the educational environment in fostering a culture of healthy communication. These findings indicate that protecting children requires cooperation among all school stakeholders for the prevention and handling of cyberbullying to be effective.

According to research by Henares-Montiel, the most effective cyberbullying prevention interventions are those that combine education, the development of social skills, the formation of positive behavior, and the active involvement of schools and families. Effective cyberbullying prevention programs for elementary-school-age children focus not only on victims and perpetrators, but also involve teachers, parents, and peers. Anti-bullying approaches implemented in schools play an important role in protecting children who are more vulnerable to bullying. Success in tackling cyberbullying in the Asia-Pacific region still faces various challenges, particularly due to limited stakeholder involvement and uneven implementation of prevention programs in schools.

One bullying case that drew public attention occurred at SMA Negeri 9 Bandar Lampung in 2025. Based on an interview with Mr. Edy Sabhara, Head of the Women's and Children's Protection Unit (Kanit PPA) of the Bandar Lampung Police, the case involved a twelfth-grade student with the initials MR, who was allegedly bullied by several classmates, including a former class president with the initials ATF. According to the information obtained, the bullying did not occur suddenly but developed gradually and repeatedly in the victim's daily life at school.

At first, the victim frequently experienced unpleasant treatment in the form of mockery and belittling comments from her classmates. This mockery occurred both directly and within social interactions at school, leaving the victim uncomfortable and eroding her self-confidence. Over time, the bullying she experienced became more intense. The victim reported being repeatedly called derogatory names referencing her family's economic condition and dignity. She was also mocked for receiving benefits under the government's Free Nutritious Meal (MBG) program, with several classmates turning it into a joke and a source of ridicule, leaving her feeling humiliated in front of her peers.

Beyond verbal mockery, the victim also experienced social exclusion within the school environment and learning activities. She reported frequently being excluded from study groups and group assignments formed in class. As a result, she felt alienated from her social environment and struggled to interact with her classmates. This ongoing exclusion caused her to lose any sense of comfort and safety at school.

The event with the greatest impact on the victim's psychological condition was the spread of a false rumor by several schoolmates, alleging that she was pregnant, even though this was untrue. The rumor spread throughout the school and became a topic of conversation among students. For the victim, this slander was the most painful form of bullying she experienced, as it was seen as damaging her good name, honor, and reputation as a student. She felt ashamed, distressed, and anxious about how others perceived her because of this baseless rumor.

The accumulation of various forms of bullying she experienced ranging from mockery and insults to social exclusion and the spread of false rumors caused her psychological condition to worsen significantly. She experienced considerable mental strain and displayed symptoms of depression. Under these conditions, she chose not to attend school for approximately two weeks. Even after being urged by her mother to return to school, she refused, still gripped by fear, shame, and the psychological pressure caused by her classmates' treatment.

The incident subsequently drew the attention of the school, her family, and relevant authorities. The victim received psychological assistance to help restore her mental well-being. In addition, a resolution process was pursued through mediation involving the school, the victim's family, the families of the alleged perpetrators, and the police. During mediation, all parties were given the opportunity to present their accounts and seek the best possible resolution. The mediation results showed that the alleged perpetrators admitted their actions and apologized to the victim and her family. A family-based resolution was chosen with consideration for the best interests of the child, the victim's recovery, and the continuity of education for all parties involved.

Although the case was resolved through mediation, it demonstrates that bullying including bullying carried out through digital media, or cyberbullying remains a serious problem within the education environment. Bullying not only affects victims' psychological well-being but can also impact their social life, academic achievement, and continuity of education. Normatively, protection for child victims of cyberbullying has been regulated through various laws and regulations. However, the continued occurrence of bullying cases in educational settings reveals a gap between the law as it stands and its implementation in society reflecting the difference between law as it ought to be and law as it actually operates in practice.

The issue of cyberbullying within the educational context shows that legal protection for child victims still requires serious consideration, as illustrated above. Although various laws and regulations guarantee children's protection, the practical application of these laws still requires further investigation, particularly in cases connected to schools. This study therefore focuses on the legal protection measures applied to protect children who are victims of cyberbullying at SMA Negeri 9 Bandar Lampung, as well as the variables that influence their effectiveness.

This study is designed to evaluate the legal protection given to children who are victims of cyberbullying and to identify the variables that facilitate or hinder its effectiveness. It is hoped that these findings will advance research in criminal law, with particular emphasis on the protection of child victims of cyberbullying. In addition, this study is expected to provide guidance to law enforcement officers and schools on strengthening prevention initiatives and the management of cyberbullying, thereby fostering a safe and comfortable educational environment that supports children's optimal growth and development.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study employs a normative and empirical juridical approach. The normative juridical approach is carried out through a review of relevant law and literature, while the empirical approach is carried out through interviews with the Deputy Head of Student Affairs of SMA Negeri 9 Bandar Lampung and the Women's and Children's Protection Unit (PPA) of the Bandar Lampung Police. The research data consists of primary and secondary data. Primary data were obtained through interviews, while secondary data were obtained through a literature review covering primary, secondary, and tertiary legal materials related to child protection, education, and cybercrime. Data collection was carried out through literature review and field study including observation and interviews using a purposive sampling technique. The collected data were then processed through editing, coding, and systematization to ensure completeness, accuracy, and consistency. The data were subsequently analyzed qualitatively by describing and interpreting the research findings systematically. The results of the analysis were then used as a basis for drawing conclusions through deductive reasoning that is, drawing general conclusions based on the specific facts found during the research.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Protection Efforts for Children as Victims of Cyberbullying at SMA Negeri 9 Bandar Lampung

Ease of internet access and widespread social media use provide numerous benefits in daily life, but they also carry various risks of technological misuse. One such form of misuse is cyberbullying bullying carried out through electronic media with the intent to hurt, humiliate, intimidate, or demean others. Unlike traditional, more explicit forms of bullying, cyberbullying has a much broader reach and can occur at any time, regardless of place or time. This condition often makes the impact on victims more severe, particularly in terms of psychological harm.

Based on the findings of this study, the cyberbullying case at SMA Negeri 9 Bandar Lampung involved a student who experienced various forms of unpleasant treatment from her classmates. This treatment included not only verbal mockery and insults, but also social exclusion within the school environment and the spread of false information about the victim. These acts gradually caused significant psychological distress, resulting in a decline in the victim's self-confidence, fear of social interaction, and reluctance to attend school. This shows that

cyberbullying affects not only children's mental health but also the fulfillment of their right to education and optimal development.

SMA Negeri 9 Bandar Lampung, in cooperation with the Women's and Children's Protection Unit (PPA) of the Bandar Lampung Police, has implemented various preventive and repressive measures to protect children who are victims of cyberbullying. These efforts demonstrate their obligation to protect children, as required by the various laws and regulations governing child protection and the creation of a safe educational environment free from all forms of violence.

An interview with Mr. Muhammad Refa'i, Deputy Head of Student Affairs at SMA Negeri 9 Bandar Lampung, revealed that legal protection efforts for children who are victims of cyberbullying are implemented through preventive and repressive approaches. To protect victims and create a safe educational environment free from all forms of violence, the school and the Women's and Children's Service Unit (PPA) of the Bandar Lampung Police must work together to implement these initiatives. The legal protection measures that have been implemented include the following:

1) Preventive Legal Protection

Preventive legal protection is a type of protection designed to prevent legal violations from occurring or recurring. In the context of cyberbullying, preventive protection plays a highly important role, given that the resulting impact affects not only the victim's psychological condition but can also disrupt their social life and educational process. Various strategic measures are therefore needed to minimize the potential for cyberbullying, both within and outside the school environment.

Findings show that preventive legal protection for child victims of cyberbullying at SMA Negeri 9 Bandar Lampung is implemented through several mutually reinforcing efforts, as follows:

B. Raising Awareness of the Dangers of Cyberbullying Among Students

An interview with Mr. Muhammad Refa'i showed that the school regularly conducts awareness campaigns on the dangers of cyberbullying for its students. This activity is a response to the increasing use of social media among adolescents, which carries the potential for various forms of misuse of information technology. According to research by Peng et al., systematic interventions in educational institutions have been shown to reduce incidents of bullying and cyberbullying among students. Such programs include counseling, classroom dialogue, distribution of educational resources, and exploration of the legal and psychological consequences of bullying. The findings show that increased student awareness of bullying's impact leads to changes in attitudes and behavior.

Through these awareness campaigns, students are given an understanding of the forms cyberbullying can take, its impact on victims, and the consequences that may arise from such behavior. Beyond increasing students' knowledge, these campaigns also aim to build awareness so that students can use information technology wisely and responsibly. In addition, these activities are expected to foster mutual respect, appreciation of differences, and ethical behavior in interactions, both in person and through digital media. By increasing understanding of the dangers of cyberbullying, students are expected to avoid acts that violate prevailing social and legal norms.

C. Education on Wise and Responsible Social Media Use

Based on an interview with Mr. Edy Sabhara of the Women's and Children's Service Unit (PPA) of the Bandar Lampung Police, one preventive measure taken to curb cyberbullying is providing education on wise and responsible social media use. This education is given to the public, particularly students at SMA Negeri 9 Bandar Lampung, as an effort to increase understanding of the importance of positive and productive use of information technology.

This education aims to help students understand the boundaries of social media use and become aware of the impact that can arise from their digital activities. In addition to instilling ethics in cyberspace communication, this education also fosters legal awareness regarding the consequences that may arise from the misuse of information technology. In this way, social media serves not only as a means of communication and information, but also as a medium that supports positive personal development without harming others. The measures taken by the Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Unit of the Bandar Lampung Police are therefore an important part of providing preventive legal protection for children who are victims of cyberbullying.

Burlet and Panahon explain that most schools still tend to apply a reactive approach after cyberbullying has occurred, while preventive strategies have not been implemented optimally. Their research shows that the involvement of school counselors, psychologists, teachers, and school management is critical to the success of cyberbullying prevention and handling. Schools with clear handling procedures, regular digital education, and support services for victims are considered more effective in protecting their students.

D. Guidance and Supervision of Student Behavior

According to Mr. Muhammad Refa'i, the school actively carries out guidance and supervision of student behavior as one preventive measure against cyberbullying. This guidance is conducted through various programs focused on character building and reinforcing positive values in students' social lives.

This guidance aims to instill mutual respect and care for others. Supervision, meanwhile, ensures that student behavior remains within accepted norms, both at school and in their digital activities. Through continuous guidance and supervision involving all elements of the school, students are expected to develop the self-awareness needed to avoid acts that could harm others. These efforts by SMA Negeri 9 Bandar Lampung form an integral part of implementing preventive legal protection for children as victims of cyberbullying.

E. Instilling Moral Values, Ethics, and Legal Awareness as a Cyberbullying Prevention Strategy

As part of its cyberbullying prevention strategy, SMA Negeri 9 Bandar Lampung consistently works to instill moral values, ethics, and legal awareness in its students. This is done through the learning process, coaching activities, and various school programs that support students' character development. According to Mr. Muhammad Refa'i, character building is not solely the responsibility of teachers but of the entire school community. The school therefore strives to create an environment that supports the internalization of moral values and ethics through role modeling, the cultivation of positive habits, and ongoing guidance for students.

Research by González and María shows that bullying-prevention programs integrated with the cultivation of prosocial behavior have a broader impact than strategies aimed solely at reducing negative behavior. Their findings indicate that such interventions can improve the overall school climate, strengthen children's mental health, foster empathy, and strengthen social bonds among students.

Instilling moral values, ethics, and legal awareness plays an important role in building students' character so that they act more responsibly, including in their use of social media. Through ongoing character formation, students are expected to understand the importance of respecting others' rights and upholding humanitarian values in social life. These efforts by SMA Negeri 9 Bandar Lampung therefore constitute an effective form of preventive legal protection against the occurrence or recurrence of cyberbullying involving children.

1. Repressive Legal Protection

Repressive legal protection is a type of protection applied in response to a legal violation, aimed at resolving the issue and restoring the rights of the injured party. In cyberbullying cases, repressive legal protection plays an important role in providing victims with a sense of security, reducing the psychological impact they suffer, and preventing further harm caused by the perpetrator's actions. Its implementation therefore requires the involvement of multiple parties the school, the family, and law enforcement. Based on an interview with Mr. Edy Sabhara of the PPA Unit of the Bandar Lampung Police, cyberbullying cases are handled through several interrelated steps, as follows:

a) Handling of Victims and Perpetrators of Cyberbullying

According to Mr. Edy Sabhara, the first step taken after a report or information about alleged cyberbullying is received is handling both the victim and the perpetrator. This stage aims to obtain a clear picture of the chronology of events and gather the information needed to resolve the case. Both the victim and the perpetrator are given the opportunity to provide statements regarding what occurred. This information forms the basis for identifying the cause of the cyberbullying, the parties involved, and the appropriate handling approach. This process also ensures that the child's rights remain protected throughout the resolution process.

Handling victims and perpetrators is a critically important initial stage in repressive legal protection. Through a careful process oriented toward the best interests of the child, the resolution can be carried out more objectively and fairly. The measures applied by the PPA Unit of the Bandar Lampung Police are therefore an important part of providing legal protection for children who are victims of cyberbullying.

b) Assistance for Victims

One form of legal protection provided after a cyberbullying incident is victim assistance. This assistance provides emotional support and helps the victim cope with the various impacts of the bullying they experienced. Through this assistance, victims are expected to gain a sense of security and adequate support throughout the case resolution process.

Mr. Edy Sabhara explained that cyberbullying victims generally experience psychological pressure, fear, anxiety, and even loss of self-confidence as a result of the treatment they received. If not addressed promptly, this condition can affect the child's social life and learning process. Victims therefore need attention and support from various parties in order to resume normal activities. Victim assistance functions not only as a form of protection during the case resolution process but also as a means of restoring the victim's psychological and social condition. Through ongoing assistance, victims have the opportunity to rebuild their self-confidence and readjust to their social environment. These efforts by the PPA Unit of the Bandar Lampung Police are therefore an important part of repressive legal protection for children who are victims of cyberbullying.

c) Mediation and Case Resolution Prioritizing the Best Interests of the Child

In resolving cyberbullying cases involving children, mediation is one approach that can be taken to achieve a more constructive resolution. Through mediation, all parties are given the opportunity to voice their views, explain the problem, and seek a mutually acceptable solution. In addition to resolving conflict, mediation also helps repair social relationships disrupted by the cyberbullying incident. This approach is considered more suitable for cases involving children, as it prioritizes protection and guidance over a purely punitive approach. Resolving cases in a manner that prioritizes the best interests of the child is one manifestation of repressive legal protection. Through this mechanism, the victim's rights remain protected, while the perpetrator is given an opportunity to improve their behavior through an appropriate coaching process. Mediation therefore serves as an important instrument for achieving a resolution that is both just and oriented toward the interests of the child.

d) Guidance for Perpetrators and Recovery for Victims

According to Mr. Edy Sabhara, another form of legal protection provided after a cyberbullying incident is guidance for perpetrators and recovery support for victims. Both efforts are part of a resolution process aimed at protecting all children involved in the incident, whether as victims or perpetrators. Victim recovery efforts aim to help restore the psychological condition disrupted by the bullying experienced. These efforts aim to eliminate fear, restore self-confidence, and help the victim resume normal interaction with their surroundings. Recovery is also necessary so that the victim can continue their education and social development without significant obstacles. Guidance for perpetrators, meanwhile, aims to instill awareness of the negative impact of their actions. Through this guidance, perpetrators are expected to understand their wrongdoing, improve their behavior, and avoid repeating similar acts in the future.

Guidance for perpetrators and recovery for victims are inseparable parts of repressive legal protection. Through these two efforts, the resolution of cyberbullying cases is not focused solely on resolving conflict but is also directed toward restoring the condition of all parties so that they can resume normal social and educational life. Legal protection for child victims of cyberbullying at SMA Negeri 9 Bandar Lampung has been implemented through two main approaches preventive legal protection and repressive legal protection as demonstrated by the analysis and interviews conducted. Preventive legal protection is achieved through awareness campaigns highlighting the dangers of cyberbullying, education on responsible and smart social media use, guidance and supervision of student behavior, and the instilling of moral values, ethics, and legal awareness. Repressive legal protection, meanwhile, is implemented by addressing the needs of victims and perpetrators, providing assistance to victims, engaging in mediation and case resolution that prioritizes children's welfare, and providing guidance for perpetrators and recovery for victims.

These varied efforts illustrate the application of preventive legal protection designed to prevent the occurrence or recurrence of cyberbullying and repressive legal protection designed to resolve problems and restore the rights of injured parties when compared with the Theory of Legal Protection put forward by Philipus M. Hadjon. The concept of legal protection is therefore consistent with the implementation of legal protection for minor child victims targeted by cyberbullying at SMA Negeri 9 Bandar Lampung.

Factors Influencing the Effectiveness of Legal Protection for Children as Victims of Cyberbullying at SMA Negeri 9 Bandar Lampung The effectiveness of legal protection for children who are victims of cyberbullying is determined not only by the existence of laws and regulations, but also by various interrelated factors in their implementation. These factors play an important role in determining the success of the legal protection efforts provided to victims. Support from various parties is therefore needed to ensure optimal legal protection that provides real benefits to children who are victims of cyberbullying.

Based on the research findings and an interview with Mr. Edy Sabhara, Head of the PPA Unit of the Bandar Lampung Police, the effectiveness of legal protection for children as victims of cyberbullying is influenced by the following factors:

1. Legal Factors

Legal factors are one aspect supporting the effectiveness of legal protection for children as victims of cyberbullying. The existence of various laws and regulations provides a clear legal foundation for protecting children from various forms of violence, including violence occurring through electronic media. With a strong legal basis in place, the process of protecting victims can be carried out in a more directed manner and with greater legal certainty. According to Mr. Edy Sabhara, protection for child victims of cyberbullying has been regulated under various legal provisions, including the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, Law Number 35 of 2014 on Child Protection, Law Number 11 of 2012 on the Juvenile Criminal Justice System, and Law Number 1 of 2024 on Electronic Information and Transactions. These regulations form the basis on which schools and law enforcement officers carry out their protective functions for children. The existence of these various legal instruments demonstrates the state's commitment to guaranteeing children's rights and protecting them from all forms of violence. In addition to regulating protection mechanisms for victims, these regulations also provide guidance on the roles and responsibilities of various parties in creating a safe environment for children.

2. Law Enforcement Factors

The effectiveness of legal protection is also influenced by law enforcement factors. In this study, "law enforcement" is not limited to police officers but also includes the school, which plays an important role in preventing and handling cyberbullying cases within the educational environment. The school particularly the Deputy Head of Student Affairs is responsible for guidance, supervision, and instilling moral values in students. The PPA Unit of the Bandar Lampung Police, meanwhile, plays a role in providing education, assistance, and handling cases involving children as either victims or perpetrators. Collaboration between the school and the PPA Unit of the Bandar Lampung Police demonstrates strong synergy in realizing legal protection for children. This cooperation is manifested through various preventive and repressive programs aimed at both preventing and handling cyberbullying cases. With effective coordination between institutions, victim protection can be carried out in a more optimal and sustainable manner.

3. Facilities and Infrastructure Factors

The availability of adequate facilities and infrastructure is another factor supporting the effectiveness of legal protection for children as victims of cyberbullying. Available facilities can facilitate assistance, guidance, and the victim recovery process, allowing the protection provided to function at its fullest potential. Based on the research findings, SMA Negeri 9 Bandar Lampung has provided a dedicated space that can serve as a safe and comfortable place for victims to receive assistance. In addition, the school involves Guidance and Counseling (BK) teachers in providing guidance and support to students affected by cyberbullying. The PPA Unit of the Bandar Lampung Police, for its part, also provides assistance through the involvement of psychologists. The presence of psychologists is essential in helping victims cope with the psychological pressure resulting from the bullying they experienced. This assistance enables victims to receive emotional support while also aiding the recovery of their mental condition. With these various facilities available from both the school and law enforcement, the process of protecting and restoring victims can proceed more effectively.

4. Societal Factors

In addition to supporting factors, there are also factors that can hinder the effectiveness of legal protection, one of which is societal factors. This factor relates to the social environment, adolescent peer dynamics, and the level of public concern regarding the impact of cyberbullying. The findings show that some students still regard mocking, insulting, or humiliating a friend as an ordinary form of joking. In reality, such behavior can cause serious psychological harm and has the potential to develop into cyberbullying. This lack of understanding regarding the consequences of such behavior indicates that social awareness of the dangers of cyberbullying still needs to be strengthened. Peer influence and social environment also contribute to the occurrence of cyberbullying. Many adolescents engage in bullying simply by following group behavior without considering its impact on the victim. This condition allows bullying to develop and be carried out collectively. A lack of concern among some members of the public for the victim's condition is also an obstacle to implementing legal protection. Some still regard cyberbullying as an ordinary matter

that does not require special handling, even though its impact can affect a victim's psychological condition, social life, and academic achievement over the long term.

5. Cultural Factors

Cultural factors are another aspect influencing the effectiveness of legal protection for children as victims of cyberbullying. This factor relates to habits, communication patterns, and the social culture developing among adolescents. The development of information technology has created a more open and rapid communication culture. However, this has not always been accompanied by an understanding of communication ethics. As a result, the use of demeaning, mocking, or insulting language is often regarded as commonplace in everyday interaction, both in person and through social media. In addition, a culture of excessive joking without regard for others' feelings remains common among adolescent peer groups. Some students view mockery or insults merely as a form of humor, without realizing that such acts can cause deep psychological harm to victims. A culture of conforming to the group is another factor contributing to cyberbullying. The desire to be accepted within a social group often drives adolescents to follow their peers' behavior, including when it harms others. As a result, cyberbullying can develop collectively and worsen the victim's condition further. Cultural factors can therefore become an obstacle to legal protection if not balanced with the cultivation of ethical values, empathy, and responsibility in social media use. A culture that upholds mutual respect and appreciation needs to be cultivated in order to minimize the potential for cyberbullying.

The findings show that the effectiveness of legal protection for child victims of cyberbullying at SMA Negeri 9 Bandar Lampung is influenced by legal, law-enforcement, societal, and cultural factors. Societal and cultural factors can hinder the implementation of legal protection, while legal, law-enforcement, and facility/infrastructure factors serve as supporting factors. This is consistent with Soerjono Soekanto's theory of the factors influencing law enforcement, which states that the success of a law enforcement process is influenced simultaneously and interrelatedly by these five factors. The effectiveness of legal protection for child victims of cyberbullying at SMA Negeri 9 Bandar Lampung can therefore be understood as the result of the interaction of various factors that either facilitate or hinder its implementation.

CONCLUSION

Legal protection for children who are victims of cyberbullying has been implemented at SMA Negeri 9 Bandar Lampung through preventive and repressive measures, as demonstrated by the research findings. Awareness campaigns, education on social media use, guidance, supervision, and the instilling of moral values and legal awareness are the methods used for preventive protection. Repressive protection is achieved by managing victims and perpetrators, providing assistance to victims, conducting mediation, and providing guidance and support until the victim's condition improves. This protection is implemented in line with Philipus M. Hadjon's Theory of Legal Protection. Legal, law-enforcement, facility, societal, and cultural factors all contribute to the effectiveness of legal protection for children who are victims of cyberbullying. Societal and cultural factors act as inhibiting factors, while legal, law-enforcement, and facility factors act as supporting factors. This finding is consistent with Soerjono Soekanto's Theory of the Factors Influencing Law Enforcement.

RECOMMENDATIONS

SMA Negeri 9 Bandar Lampung is expected to continue strengthening guidance, supervision, and education on responsible social media use in order to prevent cyberbullying. In addition, the PPA Unit of the Bandar Lampung Police needs to strengthen coordination with the school in conducting awareness campaigns, assistance, and case handling that prioritizes the best interests of the child.

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