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PSYSHIELD CENTER: A COLLABORATIVE PROGRAM FOR INDONESIAN STUDENTS TO COMBAT CYBERSEXUAL EXPLOITATION

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Abstract

Cybersexual exploitation among adolescents has become an alarming phenomenon requiring urgent and collective attention. Reports from the Indonesian National Police reveal a significant increase in cases between 2020 and 2022, indicating a troubling trend of growing child victimization. Previous interventions have not been sufficiently effective, especially in addressing online exploitation among students aged 12–17 years. This study employs a literature review method, analyzing scholarly articles, government data, and international reports through thematic analysis to identify gaps and develop comprehensive strategies. As a result, the PsyShield Center program was conceptualized to provide psychological and legal assistance to victims of cybersexual exploitation within secondary school environments. PsyShield Center incorporates sub-programs such as Scanning, Psycho Campaign, Cyber Report, Cyber Investigation, Rehabilitation, Justice Alliance, and Monitoring. The program also aligns with Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 5 and 16, emphasizing gender equality, child protection, and strong legal institutions. Its implementation is guided by SMART (Specific, Measurable, Acceptable, Realistic, and Time-bound) targets and utilizes the I-CARE method to ensure structured execution over five years (2024–2028). Furthermore, stakeholder collaboration involving law enforcement, legal aid organizations, educational institutions, and psychological associations strengthens the program's operational foundation. In conclusion, PsyShield Center represents a strategic, multidisciplinary, and sustainable solution to address the increasing challenge of cybersexual exploitation among Indonesian students. By integrating education, psychological rehabilitation, legal advocacy, and technological innovation, the program not only seeks to respond to immediate needs but also aims to foster a long-term systemic shift toward a safer environment for children online. Effective collaboration across sectors and continuous evaluation will be essential for realizing the full potential of PsyShield Center in protecting Indonesia's young generation.

Keywords:

Cybersexual Exploitation, Child Protection, PsyShield Center, Online Abuse Prevention.

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INTRODUCTION

Cybersexual exploitation among students has become a phenomenon that requires special attention from all sectors of society. Based on data from the EMP of the Indonesian National Police's Criminal Investigation Agency (Bareskrim Polri), 1,491 reports related to pornography, prostitution, and sexual exploitation were handled between 2020 and September 25, 2023. In 2020, the number of reports reached 270 cases, which then decreased to 122 cases in 2021. However, in 2022, there was a significant increase, with the number of cases rising fivefold compared to the previous year (Pusiknas Bareskrim Polri, 2023). These data indicate a worrying trend of increasing cases and victims of child exploitation each year. In 2020, at least 2% or approximately 500,000 children in Indonesia admitted to having been victims of sexual exploitation and inappropriate treatment on the internet within the past year (UNICEF, 2022).

Forms of cybersexual exploitation have severe negative impacts on minors, affecting both their mental health and social lives. The consequences of these crimes result in long-term suffering for child victims and can severely harm their mental development. In addition to physical harm, child victims often endure psychological suffering. Sometimes, the social psychological environment worsens the victim's condition, where, despite physical recovery through medical treatment, victims frequently experience stress, frustration, and trauma that impact their daily lives. Moreover, victims must bear emotional burdens as they are often isolated and become subjects of community gossip (Lilik Purwastuti Yudaningsih, 2013).

Between 2017 and 2019, the Indonesian government, in collaboration with ECPAT, conducted several studies in various cities, particularly in tourism destinations. These studies revealed that rehabilitation efforts for child victims of violence did not achieve optimal results, mainly due to the absence of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and a shortage of personnel with psychological backgrounds (Rani, Ismandianto, and Kirana, 2021). Based on these findings, the programs that have been implemented so far have proven ineffective in addressing the issue of cybersexual exploitation among children in Indonesia.

According to the ECPAT report titled "Disrupting Harm" (2022), adolescents aged 12–17 years who are internet users in Indonesia are the primary targets of cybersexual exploitation. They are coerced into participating in sexual activities, have their sexual images distributed without consent, or are enticed into sexual activities through promises of money or gifts (ECPAT, UNICEF, and INTERPOL, 2022). These numbers likely reflect the underreporting of cybersexual exploitation cases. The exploitation and mistreatment of children mainly occur on social media platforms. However, 56 percent of child victims never disclose the incidents they experience to anyone. From the victims' perspective, the low reporting rate stems from a lack of knowledge about whom to contact, feelings of guilt, fear of being misunderstood, fear of encountering further problems, feelings of shame, and concerns about causing trouble for their families (UNICEF, 2022).

These facts demonstrate that there has not yet been an effective effort to combat cybersexual exploitation, highlighting the urgent need for further education and intervention. This crime also constitutes a violation of Law Number 11 of 2012 concerning the Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography (Permatasari, Trismahwati, and Fuad, 2016).

Generation Z dominates Indonesia's population, comprising approximately 27.94% of the total population, according to data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS). Based on data from the Ministry of Home Affairs (Kemendagri) as of December 31, 2021, the number of Generation Z individuals aged 10–24 years reached 68,662,815. West Java is the region with the highest number of Generation Z individuals, totaling 11,886,058 people (Shilvina Widi, 2022). The Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAI) reported that violations of children's rights occur across various provinces, cities, and regencies throughout Indonesia. Among the 10 provinces with the highest number of reported child rights violations, West Java recorded the most significant figure, with 929 cases. Given the seriousness of these issues, special attention is needed to create a safe environment by involving the participation of all elements of society in efforts to protect children (Indonesian Child Protection Commission, 2023). These data demonstrate that child exploitation among adolescents in Indonesia remains widespread, indicating the need for further developmental efforts.

Sexual exploitation of children is a fundamental violation of children's rights. This violation includes acts of sexual violence committed by adults, third parties, or others who treat children as sexual objects. Child sexual exploitation remains a deeply concerning issue that, to this day, has yet to be fully resolved.

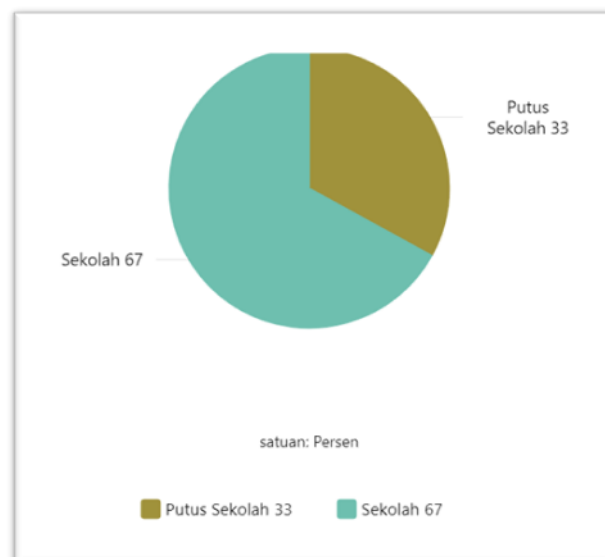


Figure 1. 67% of sexual exploitation victims are students enrolled in school (KPAI: Majority of Child Exploitation and Trafficking Victims Are Still Attending School | Databoks, 2021)

According to information from the Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAI) during the period of January to April 2021, 67% of victims of sexual exploitation, trafficking, and child labor were students still enrolled in school. Only 37% of the victims were children who had dropped out of school.

Among all Indonesian children who have experienced various forms of sexual exploitation, mistreatment, or other unwanted online experiences, between 17% and 56% did not report the incidents. This was stated in a recent report by UNICEF, INTERPOL, and ECPAT, funded by the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children.

Further efforts are needed from various parties, including the government, child protection agencies, and society, to raise awareness, strengthen prevention measures, and improve the handling of child abuse cases, in order to create a safe and supportive environment for children's development.

METHOD

This study employs a literature review method by examining various relevant secondary sources, such as scientific journals, reports from international organizations, academic books, and official data from government agencies. The literature review method was chosen because it allows the researcher to collect, analyze, and synthesize previous research findings to gain a comprehensive understanding of the issue of child sexual exploitation, particularly in the context of cybersexual exploitation. The data collection procedure involved searching academic databases such as Google Scholar, ScienceDirect, and PubMed using relevant keywords, including "child sexual exploitation," "online abuse," and "cybersexual exploitation in Indonesia" (Snyder, 2019). The collected data were then evaluated based on criteria of relevance, credibility, and currency.

In analyzing the data, the researcher applied a thematic analysis approach to identify patterns, gaps, and recommendations within the reviewed literature (Tranfield, Denyer, & Smart, 2003). The validity of the study was maintained by exclusively utilizing verified and peer-reviewed sources. Furthermore, the researcher ensured that the literature included both local and international perspectives to achieve a thorough and contextually relevant analysis. This literature review is expected to provide a solid conceptual foundation for formulating strategies for the prevention and handling of cybersexual exploitation against children in Indonesia.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION



Figure 2. Sustainable Development Goals Targets: Points 5 and 16

Psyshield Center is a program designed to provide psychological and legal support to students who are victims of online sexual exploitation, as well as to empower them through legal advocacy. This initiative aligns with the fifth Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on gender equality, which aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (Bappenas, 2020). Several specific targets that align with the establishment and development of the Psyshield Center include Target 5.1, which seeks to end all forms of discrimination and sexual exploitation against all women and girls everywhere; Target 5.2, which aims to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation; and Target 5.b, which promotes the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to empower women (Komnas HAM, 2017a). Additionally, the objectives of the Psyshield Center program are aligned with SDG 16 on Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, specifically Target 16.2, which seeks to end abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence and torture against children (Komnas HAM, 2017b).

Furthermore, the idea behind the establishment and development of the Psyshield Center program is a manifestation of the mandate outlined in the Indonesian Child Protection Law No. 36 of 2014, Article 66. This article states that efforts to address child exploitation can be conducted through the dissemination and/or socialization of legal provisions related to the protection of children exploited economically and/or sexually. Such efforts include monitoring, reporting, imposing sanctions, and involving various entities such as companies, labor unions, civil society organizations, and the general public in eliminating the economic and/or sexual exploitation of children.

To ensure the realization of the Psyshield Center program, it is necessary to establish SMART (Specific, Measurable, Acceptable, Realistic, and Time-bound) development targets as outlined below.

Table 1. Formulation of SMART-Based Development Targets

No	Target	Description
1	Specific	<p>What: PsyShield Center is a psychological and legal aid center established to provide comprehensive support to students who are victims of cybersexual exploitation in secondary schools. The program includes surveys, screenings, socialization, complaint handling, investigations, rehabilitation, social support, advocacy, and monitoring.</p> <p>Why: This step is crucial to address the issue of Indonesian students being highly vulnerable to cybersexual exploitation.</p> <p>Who: The primary target group of this initiative is students or adolescents in the puberty phase, aged 12 to 17 years. Several stakeholders will support this initiative, including educational institutions, government agencies, communication and information agencies, legal institutions, psychological bureaus, communities, and the general public.</p> <p>Where: The implementation of the PsyShield Center initiative will begin in West Java, one of the regions with the highest rates of child exploitation in Indonesia. Over five years, this plan is expected to expand to other provinces and grow to a national scale.</p> <p>When: The initiative can be implemented after conducting field studies and in-depth research with researchers and experts in psychology and law, followed by establishing partnerships with stakeholders. The planning and implementation processes are expected to be completed within five (5) years.</p> <p>How: This creative idea will be realized by establishing psychological and legal aid centers with a holistic approach, including forming multidisciplinary teams, developing reporting and complaint platforms, raising community awareness, and providing psychological services and legal support. Collaboration with various stakeholders, regular training, and routine evaluations will be integral parts of the PsyShield Center.</p>
2	Measurable	The development strategy for this program is objectively measurable, with clear targets for addressing child exploitation issues. Indicators for measuring program success include the reduction in the number of reported and investigated cases of online child exploitation, the success rate of victim rehabilitation, increased public awareness as reflected by participation statistics in educational activities, and the ongoing evaluation of the psychological and legal support provided to victims.
3	Acceptable	The PsyShield Center sub-program, with its holistic approach, offers comprehensive solutions to assist victims of online child exploitation, reflecting a strong commitment to child welfare and

		<p>thus being socially acceptable. This sub-program aligns with Law No. 23 of 2002, Article 66, which stipulates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special protection for children exploited economically and/or sexually is a responsibility of both the government and society. • Protection is provided through the dissemination and/or socialization of regulations related to child protection, monitoring, reporting, the imposition of sanctions, and the involvement of various government agencies, companies, labor unions, NGOs, and the public in eliminating economic and/or sexual exploitation of children.
4	Realistic	<p>This sub-program is highly feasible because it has clear objectives in addressing cases of cybersexual exploitation. It considers and plans strategies to overcome potential risks and obstacles during implementation and ensures the allocation of adequate resources, including funding, personnel, and facilities, to support its execution and goal achievement.</p>
5	Time Bound	<p>The development of the PsyShield Center program adopts the I-CARE method (Introduction, Connection, Application, Reflection, and Extension), to be implemented over five years (2024–2028). This includes program initiation, planning and recruitment of team members, establishing partnerships with stakeholders and partners, implementing the program in a pilot project location for the first period, reflecting, evaluating, and revising after the first implementation period, and then proceeding with subsequent program phases.</p>

The SMART-based development targets outlined above can serve as a strategic step for the implementation of the PsyShield Center program. The sub-programs to be realized are as follows:

No	Program Name	Program Description
1	Scanning	<p>The Scanning program is a comprehensive examination and analysis initiative conducted through screening techniques, assessments, and surveys, both online and offline, to assess Indonesian students for risks of online exploitation. Students will undergo several phased examination stages.</p>
2	Psycho Campaign	<p>The Psycho Campaign is a socialization and sex education program for all Indonesian students. The implementation of this program includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing sex education to Indonesian students to raise awareness about cybersexual exploitation and emphasize the importance of

No	Program Name	Program Description
		maintaining reproductive health. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting PsyShield Center services, including screening services, reporting platforms, investigation, rehabilitation, advocacy, and monitoring.
3	Cyber Report	Cyber Report is a reporting platform for cybersexual exploitation violations, focused on student victims to facilitate easier reporting. Reports can be made through multiple hotline channels, including telephone, WhatsApp, Instagram, Facebook, TikTok, Telegram, Twitter, and Facebook Messenger.
4	Cyber Investigation	Cyber Investigation is a PsyShield Center sub-program that aims to thoroughly investigate cases of cybersexual exploitation involving Indonesian students, in collaboration with the Ministry of Communication and Information (Kominfo), digital forensics institutions, and law enforcement agencies.
5	Rehabilitation	Rehabilitation is a sub-program aimed at assisting the recovery process of cybersexual exploitation victims. If victims are identified as needing psychological support, they can undergo counseling services for trauma recovery. With the victim's consent, the psychological rehabilitation process includes initial counseling, ongoing counseling, mental and spiritual guidance, mentoring, referrals, and home visits to prepare families and communities to support the victims. Collaboration with social agencies and other relevant institutions is essential.
6	Justice Alliance	Justice Alliance is a sub-program designed to provide advocacy, including witness and victim protection, assistance during police examination reports, investigation and inquiry processes, prosecution by the public prosecutor's office, and court trial processes. It also includes legal assistance to obtain victim restitution, covering material and non-material damages, which are collected and submitted together with the case files.
7	Monitoring	The Monitoring sub-program aims to actively oversee and evaluate the overall implementation of the PsyShield Center programs. Key aspects include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effectiveness Evaluation: Assessing the effectiveness of activities in protecting children from online sexual exploitation. • Case Monitoring: Tracking the development of reported or identified online child exploitation cases, including investigations, rehabilitation, and social support services. • Team Performance Monitoring: Evaluating the performance of teams involved, such as case handling teams, rehabilitation teams, and social support teams, focusing on response speed, team coordination,

No	Program Name	Program Description
		<p>and case handling efficiency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime Rate Monitoring: Monitoring the rate of online child exploitation crimes in the regions served by PsyShield Center to identify trends and changes. • Support Services Evaluation: Assessing the psychological, legal, and social support services provided to victims to ensure they meet victims' needs and deliver maximum benefits. • Reporting and Transparency: Ensuring a good reporting system and maintaining transparency in communicating monitoring and evaluation results to the public, authorities, and stakeholders. • Program Development: Conducting periodic evaluations of the overall program and providing recommendations for improvements or further development based on emerging needs and challenges.

Prevention and intervention programs addressing child sexual exploitation, both offline and online, have been implemented in Indonesia for quite some time. However, the implementation of these programs has not yet achieved the desired level of effectiveness, particularly in addressing specific cases of online sexual exploitation among adolescents aged 12 to 17 years.

PsyShield Center emerges as a psychological and legal aid center established to provide comprehensive support for victims of cybersexual exploitation within secondary school environments. PsyShield intervenes with a focus on students who require sex education and awareness programs as effective preventive measures. PsyShield also provides a complaint platform through various social media channels to facilitate victims in reporting incidents, which are then followed by cyber investigations to track and investigate the perpetrators of exploitation.

In cases where victims experience trauma, PsyShield Center offers rehabilitation facilities as a form of psychological support, helping victims overcome trauma or psychological disorders they may suffer, thereby enabling them to recover. Moreover, PsyShield Center is specifically designed to meet the needs of Indonesian students, with a strong focus on raising awareness about the urgency of addressing the issue of cybersexual exploitation.

In formulating an idea, it is necessary to conduct an analysis to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats that may arise during its implementation. This section will present a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis to strengthen the argument that this idea is ready to be realized.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A multidisciplinary team consisting of experts in psychology, law, and technology. • The program provides psychological, legal, and rehabilitation assistance, covering all aspects of victim recovery. • The involvement of the Indonesian Psychological Association (Himpunan Psikologi Indonesia) and related institutions ensures professional support. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A significant number of victims do not report their cases. • The program requires substantial funding for operations and support. • Low public awareness regarding cybersexual exploitation and child protection.
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technological advancements can facilitate investigations. • Opportunities to gain government support and attention through stronger child protection policies. • Potential to raise student awareness about sex education related to cybersexual exploitation. • Opportunities to increase public awareness through educational campaigns and socialization programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited internet connectivity. • Changes in legal regulations related to child protection and cybercrime. • Economic crises or social conditions may affect the level of public support and participation.

In the planning of the PsyShield Center program, the author has developed a detailed work timeline and action plan over a five-year period that can be realistically implemented and is capable of making a positive impact on the prevention and handling of cybersexual exploitation in Indonesia. The I-CARE method is adopted as one of the strategic steps in the PsyShield Center's work plan to facilitate the application of knowledge learned by students in their daily lives. This method was first introduced in 1997 by Bob Hoffman and Donn Ritchie at San Diego State University. I-CARE consists of five elements: Introduction, Connection, Application, Reflection, and Extension (Ardiyani et al., 2017).

Additional relevant information regarding the execution of the work plan includes the organizational structure responsible for implementing the idea. The structure and detailed tasks of each division are described as follows:

1. **Director:** Oversees the achievement of program goals and the overall project timeline.
2. **Secretary:** Handles all administrative aspects of the project.
3. **Treasurer:** Manages, analyzes, and advises on budget expenditures.
4. **Member Resource Development Division (PSDA):** Responsible for recruiting members and conducting training programs.

5. **Survey, Screening, and Assessment Division (SSA):** Conducts surveys in secondary schools and carries out screening and assessments related to cybersexual exploitation among students.
6. **Public Relations, Information, and Communication Division (HIK):** Executes Psycho Campaigns and Cyber Reports, and maintains relationships with media and stakeholders.
7. **Cyber Investigation and Online Tracking Division (ISPD):** Carries out cyber investigations and monitors instances of cybersexual exploitation, particularly across social media platforms.
8. **Psychological Recovery Services Division (P2P):** Implements rehabilitation and monitoring sub-programs, providing support for the physical and mental recovery of victims of cybersexual exploitation.
9. **Advocacy and Legal Division (ADHUM):** Executes the Justice Alliance sub-program, providing advocacy, witness and victim protection, monitoring investigation processes, participating in police inquiries, and assisting in prosecution stages up to court trials.

To realize and implement this creative initiative, the involvement of various stakeholders is essential for the establishment of a comprehensive and sustainable PsyShield Center program. The key stakeholders actively engaged in the design, development, and realization of the PsyShield Center program include:

- **Indonesian Child Protection Commission:** Collaborates in implementing PsyShield Center programs to prevent and address cybersexual exploitation.
- **The Indonesian National Police:** Acts as the law enforcement authority, assisting in investigating and prosecuting cybersexual exploitation crimes among secondary school students.
- **Legal Aid Institutes:** Provides legal support and advocacy to victims of cybersexual exploitation.
- **Junior and Senior High Schools:** Serve as primary sites for the implementation of the PsyShield Center, facilitating socialization, screening, and handling of cybersexual exploitation cases among students.
- **Witness and Victim Protection Agency:** Provides protection to witnesses and victims, particularly in cybersexual exploitation investigations involving students.
- **Ministry of Communication and Information:** Collaborates with PsyShield Center in investigating criminal activities related to cybersexual exploitation.
- **Indonesian Digital Forensics Association:** Investigates cybersexual exploitation cases across internet platforms, including social media.
- **Indonesian Psychological Association:** Plays a significant role in providing psychological services, developing psychological programs, and offering professional consultations within the PsyShield Center framework.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the PsyShield Center program is designed as a comprehensive, strategic, and collaborative effort to address the urgent issue of cybersexual exploitation among Indonesian students. By incorporating psychological support, legal advocacy, community awareness, and technological interventions, the program aims to create a safe and empowering environment for young victims.

Through the integration of multidisciplinary expertise and active collaboration with key stakeholders, the PsyShield Center is envisioned to contribute significantly to national efforts in child protection. This initiative not only addresses immediate needs but also lays the foundation for long-term systemic change in preventing and responding to cybersexual exploitation in Indonesia.

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