

The Assistance of Social Services in Toba Regency towards Child Victims of Sexual Violence

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ABSTRACT

This study discusses the assistance provided by the Social Services in Toba Regency to children who are victims of sexual violence. Toba Regency was chosen because of the increasing number of sexual violence cases, which has even been referred to as a red zone. The research technique in this review is a qualitative research method with a descriptive type. Based on field data, several causes of sexual violence were found and tended to be due to pornography and low economic status. The perpetrators stated that the freedom to access sexual videos or photos led them to practice it directly, targeting children. This is because children cannot fight back and refuse the requests of the adults who are the perpetrators. Meanwhile, low economic factors cause parents (mothers) to work outside the home more often as farmers, while fathers stay at home. Such circumstances also result in perpetrators of sexual violence being parents and close family members. In light of this situation, the Social Service in Toba Regency strives to provide assistance to victims and their families in various forms, ranging from visits and strengthening victims to accompanying them to court to prosecute perpetrators.

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INTRODUCTION

Sexual violence is one of the most common cases encountered in society and churches. Even more tragically, the issue of sexual violence is not only found in urban areas but also in rural areas. The perpetrators are not only from outside the family, but also from within the immediate family. The family is an environment

that provides protection and comfort for children; however, in some contexts today, it is no longer a safe place for them. Instead, families cause children to experience fear and trauma as a result of sexual violence. Sexual violence is a form of violence that can occur in both public and domestic spaces. Children are targeted because they are perceived as weak and dependent on adults, making them unable to report what they have experienced.

Sexual violence is a sexual act committed through violence, outside of a legal marriage, and accompanied by elements of coercion. Information from news reports in the mass media widely suggests that teenagers commonly commit sexual violence due to the influence of pornographic films. Many cases show that sexual violence is forcibly committed against children in their surroundings. Emotional factors and sexual abuse during childhood affect general health, which tends to decline, and cause higher levels of stress. Lin also adds from his research that people who have experienced child abuse suffer from trauma in adulthood, including anxiety, depression, avoidance of challenges, and confusion in searching for their identity (Ardianti, Ikha 2002). Referring to this research, it can be said that children who are victims of sexual violence need assistance so that they do not experience acute trauma.

The National Commission for Child Protection reported that in 2023, there were 3.547 reports of violence against children. The number of cases of violence against children increased by 30% from the previous year. The most prevalent cases were sexual violence with 1.915 cases, physical violence with 985 cases, and psychological violence with 674 cases. Furthermore, Acting Chairperson of the National Commission for Child Protection, Lia Latifah, stated that the cause of sexual violence cases was watching pornographic videos. In addition, most cases of violence against children occurred in the family environment (35%), school (30%), social environment (23%), and unspecified (12%) (Latifah 2023). Some forms of sexual violence identified by the National Commission for Child Protection include rape, sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, sexual torture, sexual slavery, and sexual intimidation/assault such as threats or attempted rape.

In addition, based on data published by the Indonesian Child Protection Commission and the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection it is stated that young children are predominantly victims of sexual violence and that the perpetrators are generally people close to the children. This is supported by previous research findings that parents play an essential role in preventing sexual violence against children, but their role as supervisors and communicators still needs to be improved.

Sexual harassment is one form of sexual violence mentioned above. The general public equates sexual violence with sexual harassment as being the same thing. Sexual harassment can actually be said to be almost the same as sexual violence. Still, in fact sexual harassment is a form of sexual violence as mentioned by the National Commission for Child Protection. However, in criminal law, the term sexual harassment is not used, but rather sexual violence, namely sexual intercourse and molestation of children. Cases of child sexual violence also occur in Toba Regency. Sexual violence against children has long-term effects, namely that children who are victims of sexual violence in childhood have the potential to become perpetrators of sexual violence later in life (Antari 2021). This may be because victims feel powerless when they experience sexual violence in childhood, and unconsciously perceive that sexual violence is committed against individuals who are weak and powerless.

Based on the above explanation, it can be concluded that children who are victims of sexual violence not only need advocacy and medical assistance, but also mental, social, and spiritual support. As stated in the research by Elis on assistance for children who are victims of sexual violence in Tasikmalaya Regency in 2023, which states that (Solihat, Elis, Siti Komariah 2023):

“Cases of sexual committed by family members or close relatives will have a greater psychological impact on the victim, who will feel very disappointed in the perpetrator, because they have always considered the perpetrator to be a hero, a good person who should be respected. The emotional closeness between the perpetrator and the victim will further complicate the impact. In addition, child victims are often confused about what steps to take.”

Furthermore, the results of Fuadi's research (Ghozalba 2022) on the psychological impact on sexual violence victims are:

Sexual violence is not as simple as its psychological impact. Victims will be overwhelmed with feelings of resentment, anger, and hatred, which were previously directed only at the perpetrator, but then spread to other people. After experiencing sexual violence, there are various assessments of the problems countered by the subject, ranging from feelings of sadness, discomfort, fatigue, irritation, and confusion to feelings of helplessness.

Therefore, through this review, we will identify the problems that are the focus of this study by formulating three research questions as the study's objectives. Thus, the three objectives of the research to be conducted at the Social Services in Toba Regency refer to the research questions namely, first, to identify the causes of sexual violence against children in Toba Regency. Second, to identify the efforts made by the Social Services in Toba Regency to assist children who are victims of sexual violence. Third, to identify the forms of assistance provided by the Social Services in Toba Regency to the children who are victims of sexual violence.

METHOD

This research uses a descriptive qualitative method because this approach is considered the most relevant for understanding the experiences, feelings, and recovery process of children who are victims of sexual violence (Creswell 2018). were collected to address the questions raised in this study. Therefore, several techniques were used in data collection, namely observation, structured and unstructured interviews, and literature review. Observation is a method collecting data by systematically observing and recording phenomena under investigation (Narbuko 2007). In observational data collection, researchers prefer this method because they can see, hear, or feel the information directly. Observation was carried out with the aim of understanding and observing the assistance provided by the Social Service in Toba Regency to the victims of sexual violence. An interview is a research in which two or more people meet to obtain information or explanations directly (Narbuko 2007).

In this study, structured and unstructured interviews were conducted to collect more concrete data. The informants in this study consisted of the head of Social Services, a field officer, a psychologist, three representatives from the victim's family, and two children were victims of sexual violence. Then the last, literature study is a technique used by researchers to examine theories related to the research object, namely assistance to the children who are victims of sexual violence.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Sexual Violence Toward Children

The stages of child development are essential for parents to consider. This is because children go through four stages of development, namely physical, cognitive, emotional, and psychosocial, all of which can affect their future (Jahja 2011). Given this, parental guidance and support are essential for children. Without such support, children may experience various types of physical and psychological harm. One of the dangers that can occur to children is sexual abuse. Sexual violence is an act of forcing an adult to have sex with a child. More specifically, Lynes states that sexual violence is committed by touching and kissing a child's sexual organs, rape, showing pornographic photos or videos, and exposing genitals to children (Septiani 2021). Based on field data, it was found that sexual violence against children was committed by forcibly inserting male genitals into the genitals of female children. In addition, children were invited to watch pornographic videos and forced to practice what they saw, including inserting male genitals into the mouths of the child victims. These acts of sexual violence were committed by fathers, grandfathers, and other family members.

The above description is consistent with the category of sexual violence in the form of familial abuse. Familial abuse is sexual violence in which the victim and perpetrator are related by blood or are still part of the immediate family (Noviana 2015). In addition to familial abuse, sexual violence against children in Toba is also committed by other people. In other words, peers and other adults were also found to

be perpetrators. This occurs due to a lack of parental supervision, as parents are busy working in the fields to meet their daily needs. Therefore, parents cannot directly supervise their children's social interactions or the people they meet every day. Based on the description of sexual violence experienced by children in Toba, it can be concluded that all of these cases are in line with Russel's description regarding the categories of sexual violence, namely grave sexual violence, which is through children and oral sex; serious sexual violence, which is watching pornography and touching genitals; and fairly serious sexual violence, which is touching children's sexual parts (Syamsuddin. AB 2022).

The following section discusses the factors that cause sexual violence. Based on data, the causes of sexual violence against children are due to several factors. These factors include watching pornographic videos, lack of sex education from the family environment, children being given too much freedom to socialize with others, low economic status, inability to channel sexual energy, and peer influence. The following is a further explanation of each of these factors:

1. Pornographic videos

According to research conducted by the Toba Social Services Agency, 98% of children become victims of sexual violence as a result of watching pornographic videos. Children's freedom to access pornographic videos is due to the low cost of the applications used. This encourages perpetrators to watch pornographic videos without hesitation. This is in line with the theory that one form of sexual abuse is pornography. Pornography means forcing children to watch, view videos, or photos that are sexually explicit (Santoso 2022).

2. Lack of sex education

Sex education is one of the most critical aspects that must be taught to children from an early age. Parents, who are the closest institution to children, must be able to educate their children to recognize their body parts and other knowledge about sex. If parents educate their children, sexual violence can be minimized. However, in many cases, parents are still unable

to teach sex education from an early age. This is one of the reasons for the lack of protection or supervision of children by parents, families, and the government. This statement is in line with the results of Novrianza's research in 2022, which found that one of the causes of sexual violence is the lack of education about sexual violence (Santoso 2022).

3. Low economy

In addition to knowledge factors, low socioeconomic status is another reason for parents. Parents spend more time working in the fields and are too tired at night to teach their children. Low economic status also means that parents cannot afford to build bedrooms in their homes. Therefore, in some cases, children see their parents having sex and want to do the same. Or, conversely, children (especially girls) do not have their own rooms, so their fathers have the opportunity to have sex with them. Novrianza also stated in his research that one of the causes of sexual violence against minors is low family income (Santoso 2022).

4. Freedom in socializing

Children's social interactions are an important area for parents to monitor. This is because peer influence is one of the causes of sexual violence. Based on the data found, some perpetrators are school children. The schoolchildren referred to are members of a peer group. In addition to peers, freedom in socializing also causes children to become victims of adults. If parents do not control their children's social interactions, adults can act as they please. This is seen because of the influence and even coercion of adults, which leads to sexual relations.

5. Broken home family

Poor parenting can cause children to become victims of sexual abuse. This aligns with field observations that husbands who have separated from their wives use children as outlets. Husbands can no longer channel their sexual desires, so children become their targets. In other words, sexual abuse occurs because parents or close family members lack awareness. Sometimes parents

assume that other are more likely to be perpetrators. Meanwhile, family members or close relatives are considered unlikely to go that far. This situation can also be attributed to a lack of parental affection makes children more easily influenced by other adults.

Based on the results of research in Toba Regency, incest is becoming more prevalent due to the decline in parental morals caused by broken relationships resulting from disputes and even divorce. Furthermore, the factors causing sexual violence are poverty, a permissive environment, and weak social control. The Social Service in Toba Regency assists victims on a case-by-case basis by providing advocacy and psychological guidance, and distributing basic necessities to victims and their families.

The Impact of Sexual Violence on Children

Sexual violence has different impacts depending on age. If the victim is a child (elementary school age), the impacts experienced are hyperactivity, more mature thoughts about sex, slow thinking, frequent tantrums, lack of confidence in socializing, and trauma in adulthood. Furthermore, for victims who are teenagers or young adults (junior high and high school level), it can cause the victim to want to have sex with their lover or practice it with a partner (Noviana 2015). In addition, victims may also become ashamed and choose not to go to school or transfer schools to cover up their behavior.

The above is in line with the impact of sexual violence described by Finkelhor and Browne, which states that one of the impacts is stigma (Sitaniapessy, Desy A. 2022). In this situation, victims feel guilty, ashamed, and see themselves as the worst one. Victims also find it difficult to control themselves and refrain from doing bad things. In addition, victims feel that everyone views them as sinful and stupid. This is evident in the fact that more child victims choose to transfer schools. They believe their experiences cannot be concealed and worry that they will repeat the same actions. The impacts described above are also classified as psychological. Psychological impacts cause a person to become depressed, suffer from post-

traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, sadness, discomfort, fatigue, irritability, confusion, helplessness, anger, hatred, resentment, emotional stress, and difficulty with intimacy in adulthood. Meanwhile, physical effects include tearing of the child's vagina and anus, difficulty walking and sitting, and urinary tract infections. HIV/AIDS has not been found in any of the victims.

Furthermore, based on field data, the impact of sexual violence experienced by child victims is that they choose to shut themselves away at home and become quieter. Generally, victims are tough to find because of excessive shame and guilt. In addition, victims also lose their zest for life and assume that they no longer have a future. This condition is also described by Finkelhor and Browne, who state that powerlessness is one of the effects of sexual violence (Sitaniapessy, Desy A. 2022). Child victims not only feel powerless because of the physical pain they experience, but their powerlessness is also caused by excessive anxiety. Many victims experience anxiety accompanied by pain because they choose to remain silent and are reluctant to tell the truth about their situation. The above explanation also shows that the non-physical impact related to the mental health of victims is much more difficult to forget. More specifically, the mental health of victims is more difficult to restore than their physical health (Nurbayani, Siti 2023). Therefore, victims need a long time to recover from their experience as victims of sexual violence fully.

Efforts of the Social Services in Toba Regency for Child Victims of Sexual Violence

In responding to a social issue, it is necessary to consider the forms of efforts that have been or are being undertaken by individuals or other agencies. One such issue is sexual violence, which is increasingly prevalent in Toba Regency. Toba Regency through its social services, has undertaken several efforts in response to sexual violence. There are two forms of efforts to prevent sexual violence: preventive and repressive. First, preventive efforts aim to prevent, reduce, and eliminate crime through sex education ,(Hestiningsih, Willis 2020). The Social Service in Toba Regency implements preventive efforts through empowerment

programs. Empowerment is an annual program conducted by the Toba Regency. One of the empowerment programs is promoting sexual education to the junior and high school students in collaboration with the schools.

The purpose of this empowerment program is to raise awareness among all parties that early sex education is very important. In addition to raising awareness and knowledge about early sex education, parents, children, and teachers also understand that it is possible that the perpetrators could be parents, family members, or other people. Once all parties understand this, parental control and supervision by all adults are important. In addition to early sex education counseling, social education is also a preventive measure. Social education aims to develop the social responsibility of every community through moral and religious education. Based on data, it appears that Toba Regency has not fully implemented social education through socialization that can foster a sense of social responsibility. This can be seen from the increase in cases of sexual violence each year.

The second effort is a repressive measure. Repressive measures are a form of criminal sanction against perpetrators. In this effort, the responsible parties are child care institutions, such as the National Commission on Violence Against Women and Children, which collaborate with the National Commission for Child Protection and other private institutions that protect children. The data shows that Toba Regency has implemented these repressive measures. This effort is carried out through services provided by the National Commission for Child Protection to victims. It has been found that the services provided by the National Commission for Child Protection in Toba Regency are the leading and most essential services to be carried out when sexual violence is discovered. If the Toba Regency has received information from the police regarding reports of sexual violence, the National Commission for Child Protection will immediately visit the victim's home.

The National Commission on Violence Against Women and Children will collaborate with the Social Services for Social Issues Counselor division to assist victims. In this case, they will ask the victims or their families directly about the actual events. The victims will be assisted by the counselor and psychologist. Most

information is obtained from victims and their families or close relatives. By collecting information, the National Commission for Child Protection collaborates with Social Services to assist victims in taking their cases to court. This aims to ensure that justice is served for the victims and the perpetrators receive legal action commensurate with their actions. Furthermore, repressive efforts are also demonstrated through the National Commission on Violence Against Women and Children's assistance up to the court and provision of facilities for victims. They will be responsible for covering all necessary expenses incurred in assisting victims through the prosecution stage.

Assistance from the Social Services in Toba Regency for Child Victims of Sexual Violence

The focus of the assistance provided by the Social Service in Toba Regency is on children who are victims of sexual violence. According to Article 1 paragraph 1 of Law No. 23 of 2022, a child is defined as a person under the age of 18, including children still in the womb. The vulnerable age of children as defined in the law is the same as that for children assisted by the Social Services in Toba Regency. As filed data indicates, victims of sexual violence cases handled from 2022 to June 2024 were aged 3-17 years. More specifically, in 2022 reported 17 cases involving children aged 12-17 years; in 2023 reported 31 cases involving children aged 13-17 years; and as of June 2024, reported 33 cases involving children aged 5-17 years (Toba 2024).

The types of sexual violence against children assisted by the Social Services in Toba Regency are diverse. The types of sexual violence referred to include indecent acts, sexual intercourse, physical violence, kidnapping and violence, and sexual intercourse and indecent acts. In terms of quantity, the types of sexual violence most commonly experienced by children are sexual intercourse and molestation. Based on this data, the provisions in Law No. 23 of 2022 concerning types of sexual violence are in line with field data, namely sexual intercourse and indecent acts. Furthermore, it is also mentioned that sexual violence against children

can begin with abduction, sale, and trafficking of children. The same thing was found in cases of children who were victims of sexual violence in Toba Regency. Several cases showed that children were first abducted, then raped and molested.

Therefore, the Social Services in Toba Regency considers that assisting children who are victims of sexual violence is very important. The assistance provided by the Social Services in Toba takes the form of investigations, court proceedings, training, and education. For further clarification, the following is an explanation of the forms of assistance that have been provided, namely:

1. Investigation

The Social Services will immediately investigate if a victim reports a case of sexual violence. Reports are generally received from the district court. Once a report has been received, Social Services will conduct further investigation to obtain clear information and take action for the next stage.

2. Courts and prosecutors

After conducting an investigation, Social Services will accompany victims and their families to court and to the prosecutor's office. Intensive assistance is provided so that victims can convey accurate information and seek justice from the authorities. Generally, the victims are those who come from low-income families, so they lack the confidence to communicate important matters in court. Therefore, Social Services strives to prepare and assist victims in speaking up and expressing their opinions firmly. Every victim assisted does not pay anything, as the assistance provided is grounded in the struggle for human rights and justice. Training

If victims are still in school, Social Services will provide training. The training comprises vocational programs in sewing, cosmetology, fashion design, and culinary arts. Child victims will be sent to a vocational training institution that has partnered with the Social Services. The training aims to equip children with skills to open their own businesses or pursue their dreams.

3. Education

From research findings, the Social Services discovered that junior high and high school students tend to be victims of sexual violence. Some of these children choose to continue attending the same school and to work with the school to conceal the case. However, there are also children who are worried that people around their school will discover the case, so they choose to transfer or even drop out of school. The Social Services will not require children to remain in school but will offer an alternative: the General Education Program Level C, which is equivalent to high school. This action is taken by Social Services to ensure that children can continue to receive an education comparable to that of their peers. Assistance the assistance provided by the Social Services began when it received a police report concerning the victim's residence. As explained, assistance is provided to support, strengthen, and help victims and their families to speak at the trial. This is to ensure that victims can exercise their rights as Indonesian citizens. After assistance at the trial, victims will continue to receive assistance if they are still traumatized, isolated from their surroundings, and bullied. The assistance provided will continue until the victims can fully accept their situation. Additionally, assistance is also provided in the form of necessities such as milk, biscuits, sugar, and rice as a sign of concern for the victims. This action is also driven by the victim's economic condition, which is typically classified as lower-middle class.

4. Collaborating with schools

The efforts made by the Social Services to help children who are victims of sexual violence require cooperation with other parties. Cooperation with schools is the first step undertaken by Social Services, given the psychological condition of the children. The recovery and acceptance of children as victims of sexual violence will depend on their acceptance in the school environment. Schools are invited to cooperate prevent public disclosure of the incident, thereby allowing children to continue attending

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school. Furthermore, the form of cooperation undertaken is a personal approach and supervision so that children are no longer victims.

In this case, the parties assisting are those who have social understanding and expertise in this field. As stated in Law No. 35 of 2014, assistants are social workers who have professional skills in their field. In other words, social workers play an essential role in helping victims recover their social functioning. This description differs slightly from that in the Toba Regency, where support is provided not only by social workers but also by psychologists. Cases of sexual violence against children in Toba Regency tend to be handled by psychologists. Psychologists are well qualified to provide support and understand children's psychology, making the approach easier. Meanwhile, social workers play a role in visiting, addressing physical needs, and facilitating victims and their families in taking the next steps in the court process.

Counselors and psychologists from Social Services will pay special attention to victims who do not dare to report the actual incident to the authorities. More specifically, the form of support provided by the Social Services in Toba Regency is assertive support. Assertive assistance aims to enable victims to tell the truth and express their feelings to those who will help them resolve their problems. This assertive assistance is manifested in encouraging victims to speak honestly and reassuring them that Social Services address the issue. The activities carried out include visiting the victim's homes and accompanying them to court. The assistants will help the victims to be able to recount the events that actually occurred. In addition, the activities carried out include psychological assistance at the trial and visiting the victim's homes.

Challenge Faced by the Social Services in Toba Regency in Assisting Child Victims of Sexual Violence

The challenge faced by the Social Services in assisting child victims is the difficulty of communicating. In several cases handled, accurate information is difficult to obtain because the children are reluctant to talk. Many child victims

choose to remain silent when asked about the incident. This situation arises because children fear that the information they provide may be incorrect or may cause new problems. In addition to fear and worry, children are also ashamed to disclose what happened. Children feel embarrassed because they realize that they have been tainted and are no longer pure, and they assume that everyone hates them.

Another challenge faced by the Social Services in assisting victims of sexual violence is the need for additional human resources with the sensitivity and skills to help victims. Furthermore, there is a lack of awareness among rural communities about sexual violence against children and how to prevent children from accessing pornographic videos. In addition, there is limited involvement by other institutions that could collaborate with Social Services. The challenges faced by the Social Services are among those that hinder the reduction of sexual violence cases. For more details, the challenges mentioned above are explained as below:

1. Low human resources

The number of assistants at the Social Services is considered sufficient, given the number of divisions within the agency. The assistants generally have expertise in the social and psychological fields. They have been carrying out their responsibilities in accordance with their respective duties and functions. However, the lack of resources refers more to the skills needed to approach victims of sexual violence. Considering that children are the most common victims in Toba Regency, an extra approach is required. According to the experience of the assistants, when children become victims, it is more difficult for them to open up and tell the truth about what happened. This is because psychologically, children are not yet fully able to absorb and understand the situation they are experiencing. In general, children do not know that the actions of adults constitute sexual violence. Therefore, the skills of the assistants in approaching children are essential so that cases of sexual violence can be brought to light.

2. Lack of public awareness

From the experience of counselors in Social Services in Toba Regency, it was found that many people, especially in rural areas, are still unaware of the forms of sexual violence. Some victims who were counseled indicated that when a child is molested by a parent or other close family member, the case is usually hidden. Parents or families who know that a close family member has abused their child prefer to remain silent because the family does not believe the child's story. The response is to conceal it, as they believe that revealing the case would disgra the family. Furthermore, if a case of sexual violence occurs in a village, the surrounding community is not very responsive. It does not pay much attention because they believe that it is the parents who are responsible for supervising their children.

3. Lack of involvement from other institutions

One of the challenges faced by the Social Services in assisting children who are victims of sexual violence is the lack of involvement from other institutions. The Social Services office is located in the Soposurung area, which is an educational area; it's necessary to establish cooperation with the schools surrounding. This cooperation can be the first step in preventing sexual violence through education and socialization about the increase in sexual violence in Toba Regency. The lack of involvement from other institutions is a challenge because Social Services will not be able to address all cases and understand children's behavior in schools. The Social Services has sought to establish cooperation with other institutions, but due to time constraints and lack of a positive response, this challenge has not yet been overcome.

Based on the above explanation, it can be concluded that the challenges faced by the Social Services in Toba Regency in assisting victims of sexual violence are both internal and external. The internal aspect refers to the lack of human resources within the Social Services, namely psychologists and counselors or social workers who have empathy and are skilled to do the tasks. The external aspect includes lack of public awareness and involvement, as well as other institutions. In

addition, reduced support from the community and other institutions is affecting the work of Social Services. Therefore, if these challenges can be overcome, then handling of sexual violence will be resolved well. .

CONCLUSION

Several factors causes sexual violence such as watching pornographic videos, lack of sex education from the family environment, children being given too much freedom to socialize with others, low economic status, inability to channel sexual energy, and peer influence. Based on the results of research in Toba Regency, incest is becoming more prevalent due to the decline in parental morals caused by broken relationships resulting from disputes and even divorce. In response to those problems, the Social Service in Toba Regency assists the victims based on the cases by giving advocacy and psychological guidance, and also distributes the basic needs of the victims and their families. The efforts made by the Social Services in Toba Regency toward sexual violence consist of preventive and repressive measures. Preventive measures aim to prevent, reduce, and eliminate crimes through sex education in junior and high schools across Toba Regency and by establishing partnerships with schools. Meanwhile, repressive measures are carried out through assistance in court and the provision of facilities for victims provided by the National Commission on Violence Against Women and Children, particularly by the National Commission for Child Protection.

As a representative of the government in realizing justice and social welfare, the Social Services provides and offers forms of assistance, including investigation, court proceedings, training, and education. In carrying out its duties, the Social Services faces some challenges in assisting child victim of sexual violence. The challenges refer to the lack of human resources within the Social Services, namely psychologists and counselors or social workers who have empathy and are skilled to do the tasks. Furthermore, lack of public awareness and involvement other institutions and less support from the community and other institutions also affecting

the Social Services works. If those challenges can be overcome, then handling of sexual violence will be resolved well.

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