

Prevention of Sexual Violence and Bullying Against Children at SMP Negeri 1 Temanggung

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Abstract

Sexual violence and bullying against children, particularly in school environments, constitute serious challenges in the education sector. The increasing number of cases involving children has highlighted the need for the government and educational institutions to strengthen preventive measures and establish appropriate sanctions. However, limited public awareness of the prevention of sexual violence and bullying remains a concern among academics and the wider community. In response, a legal education program was conducted through collaboration between SMP Negeri 1 Temanggung and the National Commission for Child Protection in Temanggung Regency. The program aimed to enhance teachers' and students' understanding and awareness of sexual violence and bullying against children and to provide information about prevention in school and community settings. This initiative also formed part of a community service program undertaken by students of the Faculty of Law at Universitas Muhammadiyah Magelang as part of an impactful internship, in collaboration with National Commission for Child Protection, which also supervised the internship. The methods included interactive legal education sessions, focus group discussions, and the delivery of educational materials at SMP Negeri 1 Temanggung. The activity improved teachers' and students' understanding of sexual violence and bullying against children. Participants also gained knowledge of preventive measures and procedures for obtaining legal protection in cases of sexual violence and bullying. These findings highlight the importance of school-based legal education in raising awareness, strengthening prevention efforts, and improving knowledge of legal protection for children.

Keywords

Sexual Violence, Bullying, School

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Abstrak

Kekerasan seksual dan bullying pada anak terutama di lingkungan sekolah merupakan masalah serius yang muncul di sektor pendidikan. Banyaknya kasus kekerasan seksual dan bullying yang menimpa anak-anak membuat dunia pendidikan mendorong pemerintah dalam memfokuskan tindakan khusus baik dalam bentuk pencegahan maupun sanksi yang bervariasi. Namun, lemahnya kesadaran masyarakat terkait pencegahan kekerasan seksual dan bullying menjadi topik perdebatan di kalangan akademisi dan masyarakat umum. Oleh karena itu kegiatan penyuluhan hukum ini merupakan bentuk kerjasama dari SMP Negeri 1 Temanggung dengan Komnas Perlindungan Anak Kabupaten Temanggung yang bertujuan untuk memberikan pemahaman dan kesadaran kepada guru dan siswa mengenai isu kekerasan seksual dan bullying pada anak, serta memberikan pengetahuan terkait pencegahannya di lingkungan sekolah dan masyarakat. Kegiatan penyuluhan hukum ini juga merupakan salah satu bentuk pengabdian masyarakat mahasiswa Fakultas Hukum Universitas Muhammadiyah Magelang dalam kegiatan magang berdampak yang bekerjasama dengan KOMNAS Perlindungan Anak yang sekaligus sebagai pembimbing dari kegiatan magang berdampak. Metode yang digunakan mencakup penyuluhan hukum yang bersifat interaktif, diskusi kelompok fokus, serta penyampaian materi edukatif yang dilakukan di SMP Negeri 1 Temanggung. Hasil dari kegiatan penyuluhan hukum ini adalah siswa dan guru mendapatkan pemahaman secara lebih mendalam terkait kekerasan seksual dan bullying pada anak. Selain itu, mereka juga mengetahui langkah-langkah yang dapat diambil untuk mencegah tindakan tersebut serta memahami bagaimana cara mendapatkan perlindungan hukum ketika terjadi kekerasan seksual dan bullying.

Kata Kunci

Kekerasan Seksual, Bullying, Sekolah

Introduction

Sexual violence and bullying in educational settings have attracted increasing attention in many countries, including Indonesia. Although schools should provide safe and supportive environments in which children can learn and develop, they continue to face various forms of violence that threaten students' physical and psychological well-being. Sexual violence and bullying not only harm children's psychological health but also disrupt teaching and learning and jeopardize their overall development. Studies indicate that children who experience sexual violence and bullying may suffer prolonged trauma, which can contribute to lower academic achievement, reduced self-confidence, and mental health problems such as depression and anxiety.¹

¹ Muhamad Yudistira Nugraha and M Sirozi, "Strategi Tindakan Kekerasan Dan Bullying Di Sekolah : Bentuk , Pelaku Dan Pencegahannya Program Studi Magister Pendidikan Agama Islam ,

The occurrence of sexual violence and bullying in schools is closely associated with limited public awareness and understanding—particularly among teachers, students, and parents—of the importance of prevention and appropriate responses. In practice, the lack of legal outreach and child-protection education can lead to underreporting and ineffective prevention, allowing many cases to be overlooked or concealed. This situation calls for planned and systematic intervention by various stakeholders, including educational institutions and child-protection organizations, to ensure that children who experience sexual violence and bullying can access adequate legal protection.²

The government, as a policymaker, has introduced various regulations and policies to protect children, including child-protection legislation and regulations concerning the prevention of violence in schools. Nevertheless, implementation continues to face several challenges, particularly regarding the ability of teachers and students to recognize and address these issues. Educational approaches, including legal education activities in schools such as SMP Negeri 1 Temanggung, therefore offer a strategic means of strengthening understanding and awareness.

The legal education activity at SMP Negeri 1 Temanggung was conducted by interns from the Faculty of Law at Universitas Muhammadiyah Magelang, placed at the law office of Totok Cahyo Nugroho, S.H., in collaboration with the Temanggung Regency branch of National Commission for Child Protection. This activity represents a practical effort to strengthen the capacity of the school community. Through interactive legal education, focus group discussions, and educational materials tailored to participants' needs and characteristics, teachers and students are expected to acquire the knowledge needed to recognize, prevent, and report cases of sexual violence and bullying at school and in the wider community. The program reflects academic engagement with an important social issue and strengthens cooperation between educational institutions and child-protection organizations to create safe environments that support children's development.

By improving knowledge and awareness, schools are expected to serve as the first line of defence against sexual violence and bullying. More broadly, this effort aligns

Fakultas Ilmu Tarbiyah Dan Keguruan , Strategy Acts of Violence and Bullying in Schools : Forms , Perpetrators and Prev" 5, no. 3 (2025): 881–85.

² Bernita Silaban et al., "Sosialisasi Kekerasan Seksual Dan Bullying Terhadap Peningkatan Pemahaman Siswa Di Lingkungan Sekolah," *GERVASI: Jurnal Pengabdian Kepada Masyarakat* 9, no. 1 (2025): 656–69, <https://doi.org/10.31571/gervasi.v9i1.8396>.

with the state's commitment to upholding children's rights to protection and appropriate education, as established in international conventions and national regulations. Strengthening legal education in schools may help foster a culture that respects children's dignity and reduces violence and intimidation.³

Method

This activity employed an interactive legal education approach involving the presentation of educational materials, focus group discussions, and question-and-answer sessions between the speakers and participants. This approach was selected to raise awareness among students and educators about preventing sexual violence and bullying and to encourage collaborative problem-solving.

Target Participants

The primary target participants were students at SMP Negeri 1 Temanggung, who are in adolescence and may be vulnerable to risks associated with technological developments, as well as teaching staff, who play an important role in maintaining a safe and comfortable school environment. Teachers were encouraged to provide education proactively and to act as supervisors and educators in preventing sexual violence and bullying at school.

Date and Location

The activity was held on Tuesday, 30 September 2025, at SMP Negeri 1 Temanggung, Central Java. A junior high school was considered an appropriate setting because students are transitioning into adolescence and may be particularly susceptible to environmental influences and social interactions.

Activity Procedures

The activity began with the presentation of educational materials, followed by discussion and a question-and-answer session. These components were important for strengthening students' and teachers' understanding and awareness of sexual violence and bullying in the school environment.

Results and Discussion

The legal education activity held at SMP Negeri 1 Temanggung on Tuesday, 30 September 2025, began with a presentation on the prevention of sexual violence and

³ Novi Satria Jatmiko, "Edukasi Bullying Dan Kekerasan Seksual : Upaya Menciptakan Lingkungan Pendidikan Yang Aman Di Panti Asuhan Aisyiyah," *Jurnal Pengabdian Kepada Masyarakat Nusantara (JPkMN)* 6, no. 1 (2025): 163–72.

bullying delivered by Totok Cahyo Nugroho, S.H., Chair of the Temanggung Regency branch of National Commission for Child Protection. The activity addressed both female and male students, emphasizing that sexual violence can occur in schools and in the wider community. Information about these issues is available through social media platforms such as TikTok, Instagram, WhatsApp, and Facebook, as well as other online news platforms. Nevertheless, many students remain unsure how to respond to incidents or what measures can be taken to prevent sexual violence and bullying at school.

Sexual Violence

Sexual violence encompasses acts involving or directed toward sexual activity that are carried out by one party without the consent of the person involved. Such acts may cause negative emotional responses in victims, including anger, distress, disappointment, fear, and anxiety.⁴

The growing number of reports of sexual violence in various settings—from schools and public spaces to private life—serves as a warning that must not be ignored. This serious situation requires timely, concrete, and well-planned action. Prevention efforts should focus on protecting every individual regardless of gender or age. Female and male students, adults, and minors may all be vulnerable and require protection. The issue is not solely about punishing perpetrators; it is also about creating safe environments and recognizing the importance of gender awareness and child protection.⁵

⁴ Ake Royke Calvin Langingi, Richlany Mamonto, and Finni Fitria Tumiwa, "Penyuluhan Pencegahan Kekerasan Terhadap Perempuan Dan Anak Pada Mahasiswa Baru STIKES Graha Medika," *ARSY: Jurnal Aplikasi Riset Kepada Masyarakat* 1, no. 1 (2020): 36–40, <https://doi.org/10.55583/arsy.v1i1.43>.

⁵ Fatmariza et al., "Peningkatan Pengetahuan Dan Pemahaman Masyarakat Nagari Pasie Laweh Tentang Kekerasan Terhadap Perempuan Dan Anak Melalui Penyuluhan" 2, no. April (2020): 8–16.



Figure 1. Presentation of Sexual Violence Material

Figure 1 shows a presentation by Totok Cahyo Nugroho, Chair of National Commission for Child Protection, who explained that sexual violence takes many forms. One example is catcalling in public, which is often dismissed as trivial but can have a substantial impact on victims.

Child sexual abuse is a serious issue that is reported at very low rates. Many incidents of sexual violence against children are not reported to the authorities because they are often kept secret and rarely disclosed by either perpetrators or victims. Victims may remain silent because of shame and trauma. Some families are also hesitant to report sexual violence affecting a family member. Children's vulnerability to these crimes is influenced by several factors, including their innocence and tendency to trust adults, their difficulty in recognizing adults' concealed intentions, and social norms that teach children to obey adults without question. These factors can make children easier targets. In addition, children naturally become curious about their bodies as they grow, yet cultural taboos may prevent them from receiving information about sexuality. Consequently, children's limited understanding of sexuality may contribute to their vulnerability to sexual violence.⁶

Bullying

Bullying is an abuse of power intended to harm an individual or group through verbal acts, physical behaviour, or psychological pressure, causing victims to feel distressed, experience severe stress, or feel powerless. Individuals who engage in bullying are commonly referred to as bullies, and perpetrators may be of any gender

⁶ Sheylla Septina Margaretta and Putri Kristyaningsih, "Efektifitas Edukasi Seksual Terhadap Pengetahuan Seksualitas Dan Cara Pencegahan Kekerasan Seksual Pada Anak Usia Sekolah," 2020, 57–61.

or age. Bullying is frequently reported in school settings, particularly among adolescents. Indonesia's commitment to recognizing and protecting children's rights is reflected in Article 28B (2) of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, which states that every child has the right to live, grow, and develop and to be protected from violence and discrimination.⁷ Although numerous child-protection regulations have been enacted, various forms of violence against children, including bullying, continue to occur in practice.⁸



Figure 2. Presentation of Bullying Material

As illustrated in Figure 2, a representative of National Commission for Child Protection discussed the prevention of bullying in schools. Bullying refers to intentional behaviour designed to hurt another person, for example through threats, coercion, or intimidation. Such behaviour may occur spontaneously, be planned, or be carried out covertly, making it difficult to detect.⁹

Bullying can be divided into four main categories: verbal, physical, relational, and digital. Verbal bullying is frequently encountered and may precede more severe forms of aggression. Examples include teasing, name-calling, defamation, insults, and spreading harmful information.

⁷ Sekretariat Jendral MPR RI, "Undang-Undang Dasar Negara Republik Indonesia Tahun 1945," Undang-Undang Nomor § (2020), https://www.mpr.go.id/img/sosialisasi/file/1610334013_file_mpr.pdf.

⁸ Fuaddilah Ali et al., "Bentuk Bullying Dan Cara Mengatasi Masalah Bullying Di Sekolah Dasar" 1, no. 4 (2022): 496–504.

⁹ Silaban et al., "Sosialisasi Kekerasan Seksual Dan Bullying Terhadap Peningkatan Pemahaman Siswa Di Lingkungan Sekolah."

Physical bullying involves direct aggressive acts, such as hitting, slapping, kicking, or damaging a victim's belongings. Relational bullying is less overt but can have serious consequences; it seeks to undermine victims' self-confidence through repeated behaviours such as ignoring, excluding, avoiding, or using demeaning nonverbal cues, including hostile looks or mocking gestures. Digital bullying uses technology to intimidate, hurt, or demean others through threats and insults.

Preventing sexual violence and bullying in schools requires cooperation among students, teachers, parents, school staff, and the wider community. Key preventive measures include:

1. Providing comprehensive education on sexuality, personal boundaries, consent, and gender equality.
2. Establishing clear school policies and procedures to address violence and bullying.
3. Enforcing applicable laws and ensuring protection for victims.
4. Encouraging open and responsive communication among teachers, students, and parents.
5. Building an inclusive school culture that respects differences and promotes empathy and mutual understanding.

Preventing sexual violence and bullying in schools is a shared responsibility aimed at protecting children and adolescents from physical and psychological harm. Through appropriate education, social support, and proactive action, schools can become safe, inclusive, and supportive environments for everyone.¹⁰

Conclusion

The legal education activity conducted at SMP Negeri 1 Temanggung helped improve students' and educators' understanding and awareness of the prevention of sexual violence and bullying. The interactive approach not only strengthened understanding but also encouraged solidarity and shared norms within the school environment. The activity included a speaker from National Commission for Child Protection, who emphasized the importance of protecting all students regardless of gender and explained the various forms of sexual violence and bullying, including verbal, physical, relational, and digital bullying. Effective prevention requires active

¹⁰ Juhriati et al., "Pencegahan Kekerasan Seksual Dan Perundungan Di Sekolah," *SEWAGATI: Jurnal Pengabdian Kepada Masyarakat* 2, no. 2 (2023): 99–104, <https://doi.org/10.61461/sjpm.v2i2.32>.

collaboration among schools and communities through comprehensive education, clear policies, law enforcement, open communication, and an inclusive school culture that fosters empathy and respect for differences. Such efforts can help schools become safe and responsive environments that protect children and adolescents from violence and bullying.

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