



Improving Understanding of Legal Protection for Children in Schools

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ABSTRAK

Legal protection for children in the school environment is a crucial aspect in creating a safe, comfortable, and violence- and discrimination-free learning space. This community service activity aims to improve the understanding of all educational staff and parents regarding the concept of legal protection for children in schools, as well as provide insight into their roles and responsibilities in creating a child-friendly environment. The outreach was conducted at TA-TK-SD Al-Azhar Setia Budi Solo using interactive lectures, group discussions, and case study analysis to ensure active participation from the participants. The material presented covers the forms of legal protection that should be applied in school settings, as well as the steps that educators can take to prevent and address cases of violence, violations, or bullying against children. With this activity, it is hoped that there will be a significant increase in understanding of the principles of legal protection for children, which is expected to be implemented in the management of schools and daily learning practices. It is also hoped that schools will become more active in creating a safe, comfortable learning environment that aligns with the principles of child rights protection

INTRODUCTION

Legal protection for children in school settings is a crucial aspect of creating a safe, comfortable learning space that is free from all forms of violence and discrimination. Article 9 paragraph 1 of the Child Protection Law explicitly states that every child has the right to receive protection in educational environments from sexual crimes and violence committed by educators, educational staff, fellow students, and/or other parties. However, even though regulations have been established, cases of violence against children at school are still frequently found, which shows a gap between policy and implementation on the ground. Protection of children in Indonesia from the threat of sexual violence can be seen from the enactment Regarding the Child Protection Law. Specifically, Article 81 paragraph 2 of Law Number 35 of 2014 contains criminal provisions of a minimum prison sentence of five years and a maximum of 15 years, as well as a maximum fine of 500 billion rupiah for anyone who commits violence or threats of violence to force a child to have sexual intercourse with them or someone else. In cases of violence against children, there are two factors: internal and external factors, both of which have their own impact on cases of violence against children.

The community service activities carried out at TA-TK-SD Al-Azhar Setia Budi Solo aim to improve the understanding of all educational staff and parents regarding the concept of legal protection for children in schools. This counseling uses an interactive lecture method, group discussions, and case study analysis to ensure active participation from the participants. This approach aligns with the government's efforts to involve various parties, including families and the community, to create a supportive and protective environment for children. The material presented in the counseling covers the forms of legal protection that should be applied in the school environment, as well as the steps educators can take to prevent and handle cases of violence, violations, or bullying against children. This is important considering that Article 54 of Law Number 35 of 2014 states that children in and around educational institutions must be protected from physical violence, psychological abuse, sexual crimes, and other crimes. Terry E Lawson shared his opinion regarding the types of violence, which are divided into four: verbal abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and physical abuse.

The implementation of the Community-Based Integrated Child Protection Program (PATBM) in various regions has shown effectiveness in reducing child abuse cases. This program involves active community participation in preventing and handling violence cases, as well as providing education on children's rights and available legal protection. In Padang City, for example, the application of PATBM successfully raised public awareness about the importance of child protection and decreased the number of abuse cases. Additionally, collaboration between local governments and international organizations like UNICEF also plays a key role in child protection efforts. In Surabaya, the partnership with UNICEF has helped in developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for handling child abuse cases, as well as enhancing

the capacity of educators and the community to create a safe environment for children.

The importance of comprehensive sex education as a way to prevent sexual violence against children has also been identified in various studies. This education is not only aimed at children but also at parents and educators, to equip them with the knowledge and skills to recognize, prevent, and handle potential cases of sexual abuse. The role of the Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAI) in monitoring and enforcing child protection is also very crucial. KPAI actively monitors the implementation of child protection policies across different sectors, including education, and provides recommendations for improvements to ensure children's rights are fulfilled.. Children are very vulnerable to the risk of sexual violence because of their high level of dependence, where their ability to protect themselves is limited since they don't have control over their own situation. Because they have little life experience, children are also more easily exploited, tricked, and forced compared to adults.

However, challenges in implementing legal protection for children in schools still exist. Some of these include limited resources, lack of training for educators, and resistance from the community to changes in culture and habits that are not child-friendly. Therefore, a joint commitment from various parties is needed to overcome these obstacles. Activities like the outreach conducted at TA-TK-SD Al-Azhar Setia Budi Solo are expected to significantly improve understanding of the principles of legal protection for children. This understanding can then be applied in school management and everyday learning practices, creating a safe, comfortable learning environment that aligns with the principles of child rights protection. Collaboration between educators, parents, the community, and the government is key to making schools child-friendly and free from violence. This joint effort won't just protect kids from potential dangers, but also ensure they can grow and thrive in a supportive environment.

Besides the efforts mentioned earlier, it's important to highlight the role of technology in supporting child protection in schools. Using digital violence reporting apps can make it easier for students, parents, and educators to report incidents of violence quickly and anonymously. Innovations like this have been implemented in several schools in Indonesia and have proven to improve early detection and response to violence cases. Additionally, strengthening the capacity of educators through ongoing training on children's rights and child-friendly teaching techniques is very necessary. This training not only equips teachers with legal knowledge but also practical skills to create an inclusive and discrimination-free classroom environment. Studies show that trained teachers tend to be better at identifying and handling cases of violence effectively. In addition, it is important to pay attention to legal protections for children who are victims of sexual violence in the school environment. Based on the study conducted by Pratiwi, it emphasizes the need for firm law enforcement and psychological assistance for victims to minimize the long-term impact of the trauma experienced.

Problem Statement

1. How do people understand legal protection for children in schools?

2. How is the public's understanding of legal protection for children in schools put into practice?

Research Objective

1. To understand legal protection for children in school
2. To understand the implementation of knowledge related to legal protection for children in school

IMPLEMENTATION AND METHOD

The writing method is a scientific technique for collecting data aimed at explaining, determining, developing, and discovering various knowledge, ideas, actions, and specific products. This technique is used to understand, improve, and predict various problems in human life. In this writing, the author uses an empirical legal approach, which is a research method that analyzes existing legal provisions and connects them to the realities happening in society.

This legal research uses two sources of data, namely: primary data and secondary data. Primary data was obtained through participants of a socialization program on legal protection for children at TA-TK-SD Al-Azhar Syifa Budi Solo. Meanwhile, the secondary data used comes from books, research results, literature, and other legal materials related to the issue of legal protection for children in schools. The data collection technique is an important step to organize and arrange data so that it is easier to analyze. The author uses discussion and question-and-answer methods as data collection techniques, with informants coming from participants of the socialization program on legal protection for children in schools.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Implementation of Community Understanding Regarding Legal Protection for Children in Schools

People's understanding of legal protection for children in schools is an important foundation for building a safe and child-friendly educational environment. The results of community service activities show that most parents, school committees, and community leaders understand that children need protection, but they haven't directly connected it to the applicable laws, such as Law Number 35 of 2014 on Child Protection, or Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology Regulation Number 46 of 2023 on the Prevention and Handling of Violence in Educational Settings..

The gap in public understanding is especially noticeable in the context of bullying, physical violence, and gender-based violence that happens in schools. Many people think bullying is just normal and doesn't need to be reported, even though regulations have already set up prevention and handling mechanisms. Spreading legal knowledge and educational activities are effective strategies to improve this understanding, especially if delivered in a participatory way through real case discussions, reporting simulations, and presenting the material in simple language.

The outreach activities in this community service have been proven to increase participants' knowledge about children's rights, case reporting procedures, and the role of the Violence Prevention and Handling Team (TPPK)

in schools. However, this understanding doesn't automatically encourage people to report cases because there are still social barriers, like worries about tarnishing the school's reputation and stigma toward victims. That's why public understanding needs to be followed up with efforts to boost participation through parent forums, community groups, and advocacy mechanisms involving external parties.

The implementation of community understanding about child protection in schools is reflected in creating internal school policies, establishing TPPK, and fostering a child-friendly culture. This service program encourages schools to develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for preventing and handling violence in accordance with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology Regulation No. 46 of 2023, so that the community not only understands the rules but also helps monitor their implementation.

In the classroom, teachers are encouraged to integrate child protection and anti-bullying materials into their lessons. Implementing the Child-Friendly School (SRA) model has also been shown to help create a safe and comfortable school environment, while boosting students' motivation to learn. Additionally, the case reporting process is simplified with a three-door scheme (TPPK, parents/class guardians, and external partners), so that victims or witnesses can report issues without fear.

Implementation monitoring is carried out through a simple evaluation, such as the number of socialization sessions held, cases reported and handled, and the satisfaction of students and parents with the handling process. With the involvement of parents, teachers, and the community, schools can strengthen child protection management, build an inclusive culture, and close legal and practical gaps that have been weak so far.

Documentation of Socialization About Legal Protection for Children at Al-Azhar Syifa Budi Solo Kindergarten-Elementary School



Figure 1. Material presentation by the speaker



Figure 2. Photo Documentation with the Speakers and the Counseling Participants



Figure 3. Documentation of the source with the TA-TK-SD Al-Azhar Syifa Budi Solo team

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Legal protection for children in schools is both a constitutional and moral obligation that everyone must fulfill. The Child Protection Law has provided a strong normative foundation, but implementation on the ground still faces various structural and cultural obstacles. A community service program in the form of legal counseling at TA-TK-SD Al-Azhar Setia Budi Solo has shown that improving legal literacy for teachers and parents can broaden understanding of the different

forms of violence and how to handle them. This effort fosters preventive awareness and a responsive attitude in protecting children's rights. Community-based innovations and support from international organizations like UNICEF emphasize that child protection cannot be effective if it relies solely on legal instruments. Collaboration is needed between educators, parents, the community, the government, and independent organizations. Technological advancements present new opportunities for preventing and reporting cases of child abuse, such as location-based complaint apps and similar tools. However, technology must be combined with empathetic human support to ensure protection is comprehensive and sustainable. Therefore, creating child-friendly schools requires a holistic approach: strengthening regulations, legal education, using technology, and cross-sector collaboration. When this synergy is achieved, the educational environment can truly become a safe, comfortable, and inclusive space for children to grow and develop optimally.

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