



A Family-Based Model to Prevent Sexual Violence on Children

Siti Nurbayani¹, Elly Malihah², Moh. Dede³, Millary Agung Widiawaty⁴

¹ Associate Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences Education, Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia, Bandung City, Indonesia

² Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences Education, Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia, Bandung City, Indonesia

³ PhD Student, Postgraduate School, Universitas Padjadjaran, Bandung City, Indonesia

⁴ Research Assistant, National Research and Innovation Agency of Indonesia, DKI Jakarta, Indonesia

Corresponding Author: Siti Nurbayani; *Associate Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences Education, Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia, Bandung City, Indonesia*

Email: s.nurbayani@upi.edu

Qualitative Study

Abstract

Background: In the globalization era, parents need to put more effort to fortify children against sexual violence. There are several cases of sexual violence that are mishandled due to shame, taboo, and parental ignorance. Therefore, this study aims to develop a family-based model to prevent sexual violence against children.

Methods: Three cases which have occurred in Indonesia became as reference, namely Garut, Sukabumi, and Tangerang. The model development was divided into two phases including the scheme and its validation. This research involved housewives and children (33 families), the Integrated Service Unit (UPT) of Rancamanyar, Mitra Citra Remaja PKBI, Tabu Indonesia Berdaya Foundation, and the National Population and Family Planning Agency (BKKBN). A 'Model Peduli Utama' (Delima) (the primary caring model) was employed to prevent sexual violence against children.

Results: Delima integrated the need for sexuality education, because it formed family resilience as social capital.

Conclusion: This model increases parents' knowledge and awareness, promoting them to attend to children's privacy. Moreover, it becomes stable because it provides a safe environment for the youth.

Keywords: Delima; Family; Indonesia; Preventive effort; Social capital

Citation: Nurbayani S, Malihah E., Dede M, Widiawaty MA. **A Family-Based Model to Prevent Sexual Violence on Children.** *Int J Body Mind Culture* 2022; 9(3): 159-66.

Received: 10 May 2022

Accepted: 02 July 2022

This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 Unported License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

Introduction

Currently, social media becomes a medium for spreading different influences on children (Ersoy, 2019). This is because it exposed the youth to the digital world through affordable prices of smartphones and data packages. Social media negatively affects children while there is no meaningful supervision from parents. According to Cataldo et al. (2020) and Schwarzer et al. (2022), it not only triggers deviant behavior, but also sexual violence. Previously, social media was based on text but later shifted to images and videos-based era. This brings about violent and pornographic content which negatively affects the youth's development. Therefore, parents are required to protect their children from the bad influences of social media and the digital world (Bryant, 2018).

The study by Cutas and Smajdor (2017) showed that families had to perform their role by instilling the societal values and norms in youth. Parents as the main protectors need to ensure the children's safety against deviant behavior. Meanwhile, social media exposes the youth to pornographic content while there is no meaningful supervision from families. This inappropriate content enables children to engage in deviant behavior (Cankaya & Odabasi, 2009; Laili, Puspitawati, & Yuliati, 2018). Pornography causes children to be powerless while being abused, because they are not aware of different forms of sexual violence; it often occurs in harmless environments including educational, religious, and social circles.

Furthermore, sexual violence causes traumatic effects because it promotes sex addiction and the repetition of similar events in the future (Debowska, Willmott, Boduszek, & Jones, 2017; Koçtürk & Bilginer, 2019). The victims often experience post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) such as nightmares, social suspicion, limitation to their environment, self-harm, strong urges to suicide, and drug addiction (Nurbayani, Dede, & Malihah, 2022). This protection against sexual violence is not only the role of a legal practitioner but also the family to ensure that children are always vigilant while hanging out in the digital world. In developing countries, family conditions and illiteracy become the main challenges for this protection.

Previous studies showed that sexual violence against children was closely related to family conditions, parenting, and intimate interactions. According to Anwar (2013), families need to ensure that there is a quality upbringing and education for the youth in society. Even though parents allow someone, who has potential as a perpetrator, to interact intimately with their children (Duncan, 2005; Quadara, Nagy, Higgins, & Siegel, 2015). The suspects often give the children special treatment including food, gifts, and money, to enable them to get a positive self-image (Schoch et al., 2020). This study aims to develop a family-based model to prevent sexual violence. Besides, it examines the need for education and social capital because families are expected to protect their children against the negative influence of social media. This model can be a basis for families to apply parenting as a preventive effort; moreover, it has the potential to develop robust assessment instruments for victims, perpetrators, and neighborhoods where the sexual violence has occurred.

Methods

Study participants: Generally, the method used in this study focuses on strengthening a society where families assist to protect children against sexual violence. Li et al. (2018) showed that this model enhanced social capital. Therefore, families need to provide cognitive, psychological, and spiritual support for youths to overcome difficulties. The cognitive aspect helps parents to build relationships, communication,

and interpersonal trust (Hoffmann & Dufur, 2018). From 2014 to 2020, there are several cases of sexual violence against children in Tangerang, Sukabumi, and Garut, Indonesia, at the village level (Nurbayani & Dede, 2021). These cases were studied by authors and were inspirations for the model development, in which all parents of victims were interviewed in depth.

The model development involved housewives and children as representative of 33 families in Rancamanyar, Bandung Regency, Indonesia. Participants become interested in receiving information on sexuality education which they no longer identify as a taboo, whereas previously, there have been cases of sexual violence in which the perpetrators and victims were under the influence of social media. This information was conveyed by the Integrated Service Unit (UPT) of Rancamanyar, Mitra Citra Remaja PKBI, Indonesian Tabu Berdaya Foundation (Tabu ID), and the National Population and Family Planning Board (BKKBN). Furthermore, the agents in BKKBN GenRe Ambassadors assist in promoting children's knowledge and private space to minimize sexual violence. These contents become useful to promote stimulation, interests, and active participation (Crisogen, 2015; Pourkazemi, janighorban, Mostafavi, & Boroumandfar, 2020). Every participant has been aware of this scientific effort and they have provided informed consent. Researchers were also obliged to protect all identities and the subject itself.

Model development: This study used a family-based model to prevent sexual violence against children. Moreover, it aimed to know the effectiveness of this method (Nobelius, 2002; Richey & Klein, 2005; Mohajan, 2020). The article is divided into two phases including the scheme and its validation. Meanwhile, the scheme consists of 3 parts including: 1) analyzing the informant's needs, 2) formulating tentative guidance, and 3) developing a method in line with the desired achievement. Model validation continues to strengthen the relationship between children and their parents through education, content screening, and family protection against sexual violence. Moreover, it targets the social components that influence youth experiences including societal bonds, educational institutions, and peer groups.

Results

The need for comprehensive sexuality education: Indonesian's awareness of sexuality is still low because people view and assess it as behaviors related to intimate organs (Pakasi & Kartikawati, 2013). Meanwhile, sexuality includes privacy, mental and physical health, social cohesion, as well as interpersonal relationships. At first, society believes this study model is taboo but later develops an interest in it. This is because the method assists in preventing sexual violence against children. Society often judges that sexuality education is only for those that are married (Madasari, 2021; Mohseni, Riazi, Nasiri, & Karimian, 2022). In Indonesia, the cases of sexual violence that occurred stimulate the people to seek relevant information. There are several sources of information from cyberspace and electronic media to ensure that society gets the proper knowledge that is fact-based, free of bias and hoaxes.

Parents' education level helps to determine people's ignorance about the importance of sexuality. According to Nurbayani et al. (2022), sexuality which can occur through friends accidentally affects children. Indirectly, families without this knowledge cause youth to be vulnerable to bad influences. This study showed that there were several elements including: (1) knowing the children's daily activities, (2) providing knowledge about personal privacy, (3) identifying the children's friends, (4) understanding their social group, (5) willing to accept complaints and reports, as

well as (6) complementing the family role. These components create awareness for the parents to protect children from sexual violence which is commonly performed by pedophilia. The cases that occurred in Garut, Sukabumi, and Tangerang showed that these elements were incomplete or missing. This is because the cases caused health problems, trauma, predatory cycles, drug abuse, and the spread of diseases to victims and society (Chen et al., 2016).

Sexual violence against children does not only occur in urban, but also the rural areas. The main difference is that there is no criminal prosecution and proper trauma caring for victims in the rural setting. This phenomenon shows that comprehensive sexual education is needed in all societies. Meanwhile, society in the urban areas fails to always show sensitivity to youth's caring. Collin-Vezina et al. (2013) and Srivastava et al. (2017) indicated that children failed to report sexual violence to their families because they were weak. Therefore, forming social awareness becomes the main capital to tackle sexual violence in society.

Family resilience as social capital: The development of social capital and model becomes a challenge for a society that is not concerned with proper and adaptive child care against sexual violence. Most parents without sound education failed to know if their children were vulnerable to this harassment or not. However, families believe that it is normal for the youth to intensively interact with adults in the society. Featherstone et al. (2019) showed that suspects of sexual violence were the closest people to the victim. Most parents find it difficult to be aware of this act because they fail to give children extra attention; many fathers and mothers act as breadwinners for the family (Nurbayani et al., 2022). Meanwhile, families are not fully aware that permitting youth to hang out without proper supervision creates a high potential for them to be victimized. The victims perceive that the perpetrator is a loving, trustworthy, and caring playmate. According to Octaviana (2019), children fail to realize that they are smaller in age than the perpetrator.

The victims of sexual violence are afraid of reporting the incident to anyone because the perpetrators make effort to threaten and pressurize them. According to Nurbayani and Dede (2021), children failed to understand the violent acts due to their obedience to the culprit. The perpetrators performed the sexual acts because they were once a victim and were carried away by pornographic images and videos. Figure 1 shows that education is needed to build a family that is resilient to the threats of sexual violence.

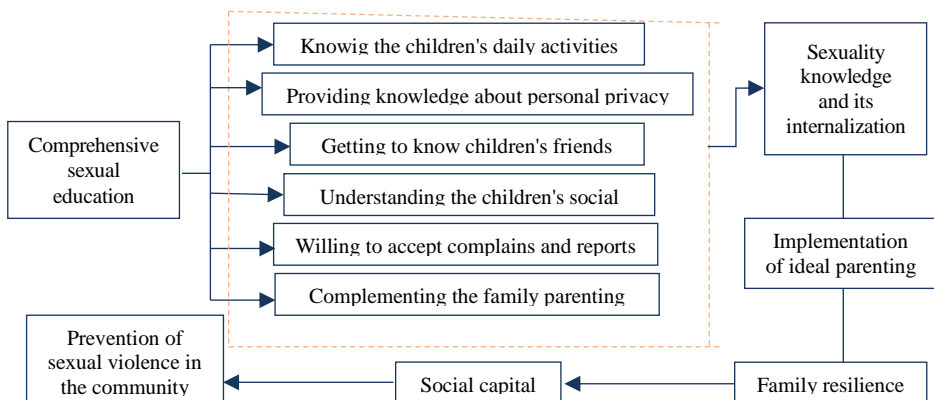


Figure 1. Sexuality education creating family resilience

Therefore, this resilience tends to become a social capital while parents are knowledgeable and ready to apply ideal styles for their children. This social capital needs to gain full support from society and related stakeholders to enable families to provide a more open communication space for the youth.

Model Peduli Utama (Delima) (the primary caring model): This study used a family-based model which enables parents to physically and mentally prevent children from sexual violence. The method is also called 'Model Peduli Utama' (Delima) which the English meaning is the primary caring model. Figure 2 shows that Delima able to restore the family role and status in the realm of education. This is to promote the emergence of common goals between parents and children. Taylor et al. (2014) showed that socialization including internalization and shared goals assisted in arousing family sensitivity to be more aware of their environments. This model is an effort to restore and strengthen the role of parents. Furthermore, this model enables the family to have proper parenting knowledge to protect their children against sexual violence.

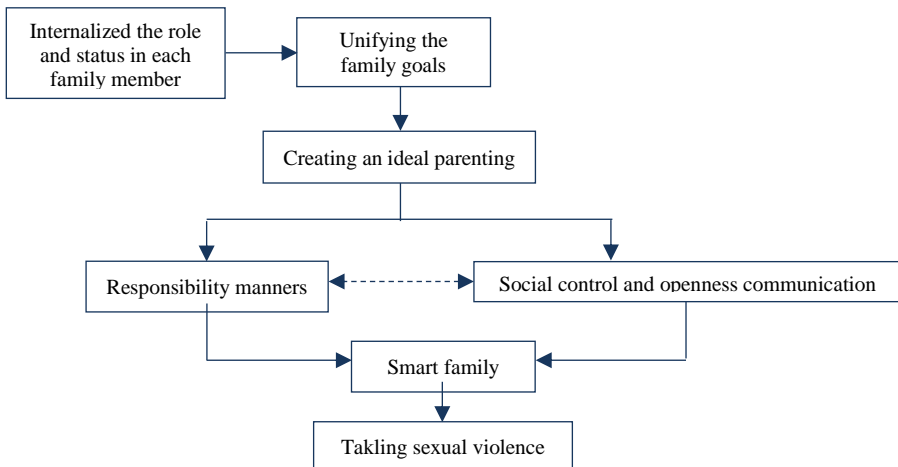


Figure 2. Scheme of Model Peduli Utama (Delima)

Discussion

Delima is a series of efforts and processes to form smart families in educating children. The validation results showed that people who accepted this model realized their role over the youth. This enables the supervision of children to be in the form of prohibitions and orders. The model enlightens parents that information and openness lead to effective communication. However, society becomes enthusiastic about different outreach and mentoring activities because it has a way to convey information to the youth. Delima aims to enhance parenting patterns and goals in managing children. Therefore, families become more responsible and empathetic because they provide an open space to discuss the privacy realm with the youth. Social capital becomes stronger to overcome sexual violence if all parents emerge this awareness. Furthermore, social capital is a great resource because it forms beneficial and lasting interactions among individuals, families, and their activities (Iyer, Kitson, & Toh, 2005; Berzina, 2011; Mačerinskienė & Aleknavičiūtė, 2011).

Family is a network agent for children to be aware of sexuality knowledge.

Economy, blood, and clan ties are other factors that affect the size of social capital. According to Anderson (2014) and Bzostek and Berger (2017), single-parent families cause parenting not to work well because their non-ideal structure greatly affects children. The model can be a reference for people to establish a new family after marriage. This is useful for establishing ideal matrimonial relationships, including the division of roles within the family (Sharbafchizadeh & Sadeghi, 2021). There are four components of social capital including prestige, property, education, and power to protect the youth against sexual violence. Delima aims to strengthen education and power because it enables people to be knowledgeable and forms collective awareness, which the underprivileged groups find difficult to obtain. Further, it has a long-term goal of protecting children against harassment in society. This study has limitations because the model is only based on the testimonies of participants - approach. In the future, it is necessary to develop instruments that are valid, reliable, and robust to know the effect of 'Delima' on families, children, and the neighborhood by involving many participants in several locations. In addition, this model can be incorporated into the educational content at the elementary and junior high school levels in Indonesia.

Conclusion

Most cases of sexual violence showed that youth's lives were not safe because they were easily swayed by the perpetrators' persuasion. Meanwhile, children failed to realize that the culprit was the closest person that was supposed to protect them. Families play an important role in providing insight into self-protection, private space, and selecting peer group. Therefore, parents and children need to build social awareness to protect themselves from sexual crimes. The lack of social capital greatly affects youths' upbringing because it allows them to be victimized. This makes Delima become an option in linking family roles and functions due to their experiences. Parents need to put more effort to protect children against sexual violence in society. Further study is needed to assess the significance of Delima in urban and rural settings.

Conflict of Interests

Authors have no conflict of interests.

Acknowledgments

The authors are grateful to Firman A. Permana and Ajeng R. Komala for their support in disseminating information on the model of sexual violence, and also to the society, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), local governments, and public agencies that have assisted in the method development. In addition, this study was carried out through the 'Hibah UPI' scheme on behalf of the first author.

References

- Anderson, J. (2014). The impact of family structure on the health of children: Effects of divorce. *Linacre.Q.*, 81(4), 378-387. doi:10.1179/0024363914Z.00000000087 [doi]; lnq-81-378 [pii]. Retrieved from PM:25473135
- Anwar, A. (2013). Family's contribution to the formation of children's character (Study from the perspective of social capital in the city of Parepare). *Kuriositas*, 9(1), 57-65.

Berzina, K. (2011). Enterprise related social capital: different levels of social capital accumulation. *Economics & Sociology*, 4(2), 66-83.

Bryant, A. (2018). The effect of social media on the physical, social emotional, and cognitive development of adolescents. Honors Senior Capstone Projects. 37.

Bzostek, S. H., & Berger, L. M. (2017). Family structure experiences and child socioemotional development during the first nine years of life: examining heterogeneity by family structure at birth. *Demography*, 54(2), 513-540. doi:10.1007/s13524-017-0563-5 [doi];10.1007/s13524-017-0563-5 [pii]. Retrieved from PM:28299560

Cankaya, S., & Odabasi, H. F. (2009). Parental controls on children's computer and Internet use. *Procedia Soc Behav Sci*, 1(1), 1105-1109.

Cataldo, I., Lepri, B., Neoh, M. J. Y., & Esposito, G. (2020). Social media usage and development of psychiatric disorders in childhood and adolescence: A review. *Front Psychiatry*, 11, 508595. doi:10.3389/fpsy.2020.508595 [doi]. Retrieved from PM:33519535

Chen, M., Liao, Y., Liu, J., Fang, W., Hong, N., Ye, X. et al. (2016). Comparison of sexual knowledge, attitude, and behavior between female Chinese college students from urban areas and rural areas: A hidden challenge for HIV/AIDS Control in China. *Biomed Res Int*, 2016, 8175921. doi:10.1155/2016/8175921 [doi]. Retrieved from PM:28101513

Collin-Vezina, D., Daigneault, I., & Hebert, M. (2013). Lessons learned from child sexual abuse research: Prevalence, outcomes, and preventive strategies. *Child Adolesc Psychiatry Ment Health*, 7(1), 22. doi:1753-2000-7-22 [pii];10.1186/1753-2000-7-22 [doi]. Retrieved from PM:23866106

Crisogen, D. T. (2015). Types of socialization and their importance in understanding the phenomena of socialization. *Eur J Soc Sci Educ Res*, 2(4), 331-336.

Cutas, D., & Smajdor, A. (2017). The moral status of the (nuclear) family. *Etikk i praksis - Nordic Journal of Applied Ethics*, 11(1), 5-15. /2250

Debowska, A., Willmott, D., Boduszek, D., & Jones, A. D. (2017). What do we know about child abuse and neglect patterns of co-occurrence? A systematic review of profiling studies and recommendations for future research. *Child Abuse Negl*, 70, 100-111. doi:10.1016/j.chiabu.2017.06.014 [doi]. Retrieved from PM:28609690

Duncan, K. A. (2005). The impact of child sexual abuse on parenting: A female perspective. In G. R. Walz & R. K. Yep (Eds.), *VISTAS: Compelling perspectives on counseling*, 2005 (pp. 267-270). Alexandria, VA: American Counseling Association.

Ersoy, M. (2019). Social media and children. In G. Sari (Eds.), *Handbook of research on children's consumption of digital media* (pp. 11-23). Hershey, PA: IGI Global.

Featherstone, B., Morris, K., Daniel, B., Bywaters, P., Brady, G., Bunting, L. et al. (2019). Poverty, inequality, child abuse and neglect: Changing the conversation across the UK in child protection? *Child Youth Serv Rev*, 97, 127-133.

Hoffmann, J. P., & Dufur, M. J. (2018). Family social capital, family social bonds, and juvenile delinquency. *Am Behav Sci*, 62(11), 1525-1544.

Iyer, S., Kitson, M., & Toh, B. (2005). Social capital, economic growth and regional development. *Reg Stud*, 39(8), 1015-1040.

Koçtürk, N., & Bilginer, Ç. (2019). Negative reactions to the sexually abused victims, withdrawing the complaint and outcomes of the litigation: the first data from Turkey. *J Forens Psychiatry Psychol*, 30(1), 152-166.

Laili, M. M., Puspitawati, H., & Yuliati, L. N. (2018). Is parental communication or internet use that makes pornography in teenagers? *J Child De. Stud*, 3(1), 56-69.

Li, C., Zhang, Q., & Li, N. (2018). Does social capital benefit resilience for left-behind children? An evidence from Mainland China. *Child Youth Serv Rev*, 93, 255-262.

Mačerinskienė, I., & Aleknavičiūtė, G. (2011). The evaluation of social capital benefits: Enterprise level. *Business, Management and Education*, 9(1): 109-126.

Madasari, O. (2021). Shall we dance? Defining sexuality and controlling the body in contemporary Indonesia. *Religions*, 12(4), 264.

Mohajan, H. (2020). Quantitative research: A Successful investigation in natural and

social sciences. *Journal of Economic Development, Environment and People*, 9(4), 50-79.

Mohseni, M., Riazi, H., Nasiri, M., & Karimian, Z. (2022). The Effects of a Culture-Based Sexual Health Training Course on Knowledge, Attitude, Performance, and Self-Efficacy of Midwives in Providing Sexual Health Services. *Int J Body Mind Culture*, 9(2), 87-96.

Nobelius, D. (2002). *Managing R&D processes - Focusing on technology development, product development, and their interplay [PhD Thesis]*. Gothenburg, Sweden: Chalmers University of Technology.

Nurbayani, S., & Dede, M. (2021). *Penyimpangan Sosial Pedofilia (Upaya Pencegahan dan Penanganan)*. Yogyakarta, Indonesia: Bintang Pustaka Madani.

Nurbayani, S., & Dede, M. (2022). The effect of COVID-19 on white-collar workers: The DPSIR model and its semantic aspect in Indonesia. *Int J Soc Cult Lang*, 10(2), 1-16.

Nurbayani, S., Dede, M., & Malihah, E. (2022). Fear of crime and post-traumatic stress disorder treatment: Investigating Indonesians pedophilia cases. *Jurnal Ilmiah Peuradeun*, 10(1), 183-204

Octaviana, S. (2019). Child Sexual abuse in indonesia: history and challenge in legal perspective. *Indonesian Journal of Criminal Law Studies*, 4(1), 83-92.

Pakasi, D., & Kartikawati, R. (2013). Between needs and taboos: Sexuality and reproductive health education for high school students. *Makara Journal of Health Research*, 17(2), 79-87.

Pourkazemi, R., janighorban, M., Mostafavi, F., & Boroumandfar, Z. (2020). Reproductive and sexual health facilitators and needs of vulnerable adolescent girls. *Int J Body Mind Culture*, 7(4), 184-195.

Quadara, A., Nagy, V., Higgins, D. & Siegel, N. (2015). Conceptualising the prevention of child sexual abuse: Final report (Research Report No. 33). Melbourne: Australian Institute of Family Studies.

Richey, R. C., & Klein, J. D. (2005). Developmental research methods: Creating knowledge from instructional design and development practice. *J.Comput.High.Educ*, 16(2), 23-38.

Schoch, A., Aeby, G. I., Muller, B., Cottier, M., Seglias, L., Biesel, K. et al. (2020). Participation of children and parents in the swiss child protection system in the past and present: An Interdisciplinary Perspective. *Soc.Sci.*, 9(8), 148.

Schwarzer, C., Grafe, N., Hiemisch, A., Kiess, W., & Poulain, T. (2022). Associations of media use and early childhood development: cross-sectional findings from the LIFE Child study. *Pediatr.Res*, 91(1), 247-253. doi:10.1038/s41390-021-01433-6 [doi];10.1038/s41390-021-01433-6 [pii]. Retrieved from PM:33658656

Sharbafchizadeh, M., & Sadeghi, S. (2021). Sociological analysis of sexual justice in matrimonial relationships. *Int J Body Mind Culture*, 8(1), 14-30.

Srivastava, K., Chaudhury, S., Bhat, P. S., & Patkar, P. (2017). Child sexual abuse: the suffering untold. *Ind.Psychiatry J*, 26(1), 1-3. doi:10.4103/ipj.ipj_83_17 [doi];IPJ-26-1 [pii]. Retrieved from PM:29456313

Taylor, K., Piotrowski, C., Woodgate, R. L., & Letourneau, N. (2014). Child sexual abuse and adult religious life: Challenges of theory and method. *J Child Sex Abus.*, 23(8), 865-884. doi:10.1080/10538712.2014.960633 [doi]. Retrieved from PM:25255927