UNRAVELING COMMUNICATION BARRIERS IN PREVENTING SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN: A CASE STUDY OF THE PATBM PROGRAM IN TANGERANG CITY AMIDST THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

a Lina Wati, b Atwar Bajari, c Uud Wahyudin, d Iwan Koswara

ABSTRACT

Objective: This study aims to explore the prevention of sexual violence against children in Tangerang City through the PATBM program by focusing on the communication barriers faced by facilitators during their preventive efforts.

Method: Using a case study approach, data were collected through in-depth interviews with five participants, including two Child Protection Division individuals and three PATBM program facilitators. On-site observations of the PATBM program’s implementation were conducted, and NVivo 12 plus was utilized for data analysis.

Result: The study identified communication barriers within the PATBM program, including suboptimal coordination during program execution, underutilization of communication technology tools, and limited facilitator resources in effectively conveying the message of preventing sexual violence against children.

Conclusion: Addressing these communication barriers is crucial to enhancing the effectiveness and impact of the PATBM program, thus strengthening its capacity to protect children from sexual violence in Tangerang City.

Keywords: child sexual violence, communication barriers, facilitator, PATBM.

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a PhD (c) Communication Studies, Lecturer in Communication Studies, Padjadjaran University, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Sheikh Yusuf-Indonesia Islamic University, Indonesia, E-mail: lina1900@mail.unpad.ac.id, Orcid: https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6223-4599
b Doctor in Communication Sciences, Padjadjaran University, Indonesia. E-mail: atwar.bajari@unpad.ac.id, Orcid: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3145-2478
c Doctor in Communication Sciences, Padjadjaran University, Indonesia, E-mail: uud.wahyudin@unpad.ac.id, Orcid: https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0859-9102
d Doctor in Communication Sciences, Padjadjaran University, Indonesia, E-mail: iwan.koswara@unpad.ac.id, Orcid: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7504-1515
DESVENDANDO BARREIRAS DE COMUNICAÇÃO NA PREVENÇÃO DA VIOLÊNCIA SEXUAL CONTRA CRIANÇAS: UM ESTUDO DE CASO DO PROGRAMA PATBM NA CIDADE DE TANGERANG EM MEIO À PANDEMIA DA COVID-19

RESUMO

Objetivo: Este estudo tem como objetivo explorar a prevenção da violência sexual contra crianças na cidade de Tangerang através do programa PATBM, concentrando-se nas barreiras de comunicação enfrentadas pelos facilitadores durante seus esforços preventivos.

Método: Usando uma abordagem de estudo de caso, os dados foram coletados através de entrevistas aprofundadas com cinco participantes, incluindo dois indivíduos da Divisão de Proteção à Criança e três facilitadores do programa PATBM. Observações no local da implementação do programa PATBM foram realizadas, e o NVivo 12 plus foi utilizado para análise de dados.

Resultado: O estudo identificou barreiras de comunicação dentro do programa PATBM, incluindo coordenação abaixo do ideal durante a execução do programa, subutilização de ferramentas de tecnologia de comunicação e recursos facilitadores limitados para transmitir efetivamente a mensagem de prevenção da violência sexual contra crianças.

Conclusão: Enfrentar estas barreiras de comunicação é crucial para melhorar a eficácia e o impacto do programa PATBM, reforçando assim a sua capacidade de proteger as crianças da violência sexual na cidade de Tangerang.

Palavras-chave: violência sexual infantil, barreiras de comunicação, facilitador, PATBM.

1 INTRODUCTION

Instances of sexual violence against women and children represent grave human rights violations and inflict significant harm on their physical, psychological, sexual, and economic well-being. An exemplification of such violence is observed in the case of children in Tangerang City over the past six years, from 2015 to 2021, with a notable escalation during the Covid-19 pandemic. According to SIMFONI PPA (https://kekerasan.kemenpppa.go.id/ringkasans), recorded cases in 2020 depicted 53 out of 193 incidents involving sexual violence against children, whereas, in 2021, the number rose to 65 out of 153 cases. The repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic have significantly impacted various facets of society, including the economy, social dynamics, and other realms (Harper et al., 2019; Wessells & Kostelny, 2022).

The upsurge in sexual violence cases against children in Tangerang City, partly attributed to the Covid-19 pandemic, was exacerbated by implementing social restrictions as a preventive measure against the virus spread. However, this measure inadvertently led to psychological exhaustion, economic downturn, and a surge in sexual violence against
women and children, not limited to Indonesia alone but prevalent across the globe (Boserup et al., 2020; Engda et al., 2022; Mahmood et al., 2022). The pandemic-induced economic decline has been linked to increased sexual violence cases (Peitzmeier et al., 2021), and heightened stress and financial instability have been identified as contributing factors to this rise (Cannon et al., 2021). Moreover, the persistence of a patriarchal culture continues to fuel sexual violence.

Sexual violence against children has far-reaching implications for their mental and physical health (C & Dalexis, 2022; Hébert et al., 2020; Sharratt et al., 2023). The consequences include enduring trauma, with potential risks of suicide (Schneider & Hirsch, 2020), and adverse effects on interpersonal relationships and social justice (Scoglio et al., 2020). Moreover, the Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated the trauma experienced by victims of sexual violence (Elliott et al., 2022), underscoring the urgency of addressing this critical issue. The collective responsibility of the government, community, and family in safeguarding children from sexual violence is paramount, as the long-term impact of such abuse becomes a pressing social and global concern, necessitating effective preventive and supportive measures.

One of the contributing factors to sexual violence against children is the ineffectiveness of government-initiated programs, particularly those aimed at primary prevention (Schneider & Hirsch, 2020). Notably, programs implemented in schools have shown limited success in preventing sexual violence (Beres, 2020). These prevention initiatives often emphasize primary prevention, neglecting the prosecution of sexual violence perpetrators due to weak enforcement of the law. As a result, sexual violence prevention campaigns have yielded only minimal impact (Lee et al., 2023). Additionally, various programs targeting child protection face obstacles related to funding, human resources, and technical challenges, with communication being one of the most critical impediments.

In light of this, effective communication strategies are paramount in programs that prevent sexual violence against children. These programs focus on taking action against perpetrators while overlooking the imperative of fostering community, media, organizational, and governmental understanding of sexual violence (Fix et al., 2021). Communication catalyzes changing societal perceptions by directing attention towards social transformation, encompassing intangible aspects such as cultural norms and values. Consequently, a comprehensive communication analysis becomes essential, as
communication profoundly impacts the success of child sexual violence prevention endeavors (Garay et al. 2022).

Aligned with this perspective, this study underscores the vital role of communication in transforming people’s understanding, particularly concerning sexual violence against children. Recognizing that communication outcomes may not manifest immediately, a longitudinal approach involves multiple stages over an extended duration. By leveraging concepts and theories of communication, along with a rigorous communication analysis, the study aims to achieve communication objectives, ultimately fostering social change. It emphasizes that a country’s progress relies not solely on physical development but also on intangible character changes, such as shifts in cultural norms and values.

The study delves into the Community-Based Integrated Child Protection (Perlindungan Anak Terpadu Berbasis Masyarakat/PATBM) program, implemented in Tangerang City for nearly six years. Despite its duration, the program has not achieved the desired reduction in sexual violence against children; the number of incidents has even surged during the Covid-19 pandemic. This research examines the obstacles faced by the PATBM program and its facilitators. The findings of this analysis are intended to inform the development of a sexual violence prevention program tailored for the Covid-19 pandemic, providing valuable insights to policymakers, particularly the DP3AP2KB Tangerang city.

Furthermore, this study aims to provide valuable input to the government regarding implementing effective communication strategies during the Covid-19 pandemic. Recognizing the significance of obtaining feedback on the conveyed messages, a well-thought-out communication strategy is essential to ensure the program’s success. Within the domain of communication science, addressing the challenge of effective communication during the Covid-19 pandemic to drive social transformation represents a pivotal area of theoretical investigation. Such studies hold immense value in guiding the development of communication strategies tailored to the unique characteristics of Indonesian society during this unprecedented period.
2 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 COMMUNICATION BARRIERS

Communication plays a vital role in the transmission of information and fostering mutual understanding, making it especially crucial in the context of specific programs. Ineffectual communication can impede program performance, posing technical hindrances and obstacles that distort messages and disrupt the communication process, thus hindering message reception by the intended recipients.

Several types of obstacles can arise during the communication process. Firstly, technical obstacles may occur when the communication tools are disrupted, leading to the distortion of information transmitted through the communication channels. Secondly, thinking framework obstacles arise from differences in perception between communicators and their audiences concerning the messages being conveyed (Abdullahi, 2023). These disparities can be attributed to diverse life experiences and educational backgrounds. Lastly, semantic and psychological obstacles pertain to errors in language usage, which can impact the clarity and comprehension of the conveyed messages (Alfi, 2019).

Several experts have identified additional types of communication obstacles that can affect the effectiveness of the communication process. Firstly, socio-anthropological obstacles occur within specific situational contexts, requiring communicators to consider sociological, anthropological, and psychological aspects when engaging with the audience. Properly addressing these aspects is crucial for smooth communication. Secondly, semantic obstacles relate to the language communicators use, emphasizing the significance of situational aspects and field conditions. Communicators must be vigilant in navigating these semantic obstacles, as incorrect language usage can lead to misunderstanding and misinterpretation, resulting in communication breakdowns (Bizhan et al. 2023). Thirdly, mechanical obstacles stem from the tools or mechanics employed in communication, such as unreadable writing or unclear voices, impacting the quality of the communication process. Ensuring the proper functioning and use of communication tools is essential for effectively encoding and decoding messages. Lastly, ecological obstacles are influenced by the communication environment. An unsupportive environment can hinder effective communication, necessitating communicators to adapt their strategies accordingly. For instance, communicating in a noisy or crowded place...
may require raising one's voice to ensure the message is heard and understood, akin to using a telephone on a highway (Onong Uchjana Efendi, 2009).

The role of facilitators in the PATBM program relies heavily on effective communication, making them particularly susceptible to facing communication obstacles. These barriers may arise from either the facilitators or community members receiving the PATBM program. This study focuses on analyzing the communication obstacles experienced by facilitators in the PATBM program, given the paramount importance of communication in successfully addressing sexual violence against children. Identifying and addressing these obstacles can enhance the program's efficacy, enabling more effective protection and prevention measures for children at risk of sexual violence.

3 RESEARCH METHODS

3.1 STUDY DESIGN

This research employed qualitative methods, particularly case studies, to examine the communication obstacles experienced by facilitators of the PATBM program in preventing sexual violence during the Covid-19 pandemic. The study also sought to understand the broader context of sexual violence prevention against children during the pandemic, considering the concerning surge in cases in Tangerang City.

3.2 DATA COLLECTION

Data collection involved conducting interviews and observations. In-depth interviews were conducted with key personnel, including the head and secretary of the Child Protection Division at DP3AP2KB in Tangerang City, as well as three facilitators of the PATBM program in the same locality. The interviews explored communication strategies for preventing sexual violence against children during the Covid-19 pandemic within the PATBM program and the challenges faced by facilitators during this period. Additionally, observations were conducted during the implementation of the PATBM program amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

3.3 DATA ANALYSIS

Qualitative data analysis involves the process of data reduction, comprising several stages such as data classification, direction, elimination of irrelevant information,
and data organization. The analysis began by categorizing data from the interviews with DP3AP2KB and P2TP2A Task Force representatives, who acted as facilitators of the PATBM program, along with direct data obtained through interviews and observations in the field. Each sentence from the in-depth interview transcripts was analyzed, patterns identified, and codes assigned to communication obstacles faced by facilitators in preventing sexual violence during the Covid-19 pandemic. The data analysis was performed descriptively using NVivo 12 plus.

3.4 DRAWING CONCLUSIONS

After analyzing the results of in-depth interviews, observations, and documentation studies, conclusions were drawn. The field findings on DP3AP2KB and P2TP2A Tangerang City, as PATBM facilitators, were carefully reviewed to ensure the validity of the obtained conclusions. This process aimed to generate reliable insights into the communication barriers faced by facilitators in their efforts to prevent sexual violence against children during the Covid-19 pandemic.

3.5 DATA TRIANGULATION

The study used a data source triangulation technique, which involved conducting interviews and creating transcripts to corroborate data from different sources. Tabulation and data categorization were aligned with theory indicators to facilitate subsequent discussions and analysis.

3.6 DATA VALIDITY

Data reduction and validity were carried out following the study's objectives. Resource persons' perspectives regarding communication obstacles for PATBM program facilitators during the Covid-19 pandemic and DP3AP2KB's role in the program were carefully considered to ensure the data met the study's indicators and objectives.

4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Statistical data on the increased sexual violence against children in Tangerang City in the last five years.
As mentioned earlier, the findings from the in-depth interviews revealed that the PATBM program in Tangerang City faced suboptimal implementation during the Covid-19 pandemic. The program's frequency was limited to just six times a year due to the constraints imposed by social restrictions amid the pandemic. Consequently, the P2TP2A task force, particularly the facilitators, encountered challenges in effectively executing the PATBM program, especially concerning public education on preventing sexual violence in Tangerang City.

Preventing sexual violence against children requires a comprehensive approach involving all elements of society. However, during the pandemic, various strategies to deliver prevention messages were not optimally executed, resulting in challenges for the P2TP2A task force in conveying messages effectively. The inadequate utilization of technology further compounded the difficulties in reaching the community.

The implementation of PATBM activities was severely impacted by social restrictions, making it impossible for all village officials and community members to attend. With limited participation and short meeting durations, it became challenging to shift people's perceptions and behaviors concerning preventing sexual violence against children. The PATBM program, initially designed in early 2019, faced significant disruptions due to the emergence of Covid-19, preventing its realization. As the Covid-19 pandemic persisted from 2020 to 2021, hopes of its conclusion lingered, but the unfortunate reality was that cases of sexual violence against children continued to increase.
4.1 COMMUNICATION BARRIERS TO FACILITATORS OF PATBM PROGRAM IN TANGERANG CITY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

One of the significant communication barriers encountered by the facilitators of the PATBM program during the pandemic is a lack of coordination. It is essential to acknowledge that the PATBM program is an initiative launched by the Ministry of Women and Children Empowerment and subsequently implemented by various provinces in Indonesia. This program operates as a network or group of citizens at the community level, working collaboratively to achieve child protection goals and foster community-driven initiatives for prevention efforts. The primary focus is building public awareness, leading to transformative changes in understanding, attitudes, and behaviors to safeguard children (KEMENPPPA website).

The establishment of PATBM in Tangerang City relies on collaboration among all stakeholders, including government entities. Such multi-sectoral cooperation is crucial for the program’s success, which has been in operation for six years across 104 sub-districts in Tangerang City. Before the Covid-19 pandemic, the implementation of the PATBM program involved face-to-face interactions between community members, speakers, facilitators from the task force, and local community and religious leaders. The program activities were conducted in various locations, frequently held in sub-districts and occasionally in schools, women’s recitation gatherings, or other community forums. Based on the interviews conducted with DP3APKB and PATBM facilitators, the coding revealed that the pre-pandemic implementation of the PATBM program can be considered effective. The program operated with bi-directional communication, allowing for an extended duration, which positively impacted public perceptions regarding information on sexual violence against children.

The program requires coordination from various levels in the flow:
Coordination during the Covid-19 pandemic encountered challenges across different administrative levels, spanning from the center, province, district/city to sub-districts/villages. The pandemic necessitated quarantine measures to curb the virus's spread, prompting a shift to online coordination platforms like Zoom, Google, or WhatsApp Group Meetings. However, numerous obstacles arose during virtual meetings, including limited Zoom capacity for participants and connectivity issues. The PATBM task force highlighted the drawbacks of WhatsApp group communication, citing its unidirectional nature, message reception errors, and suboptimal effectiveness. Moreover, participants' behaviors sometimes differed when interacting offline compared to online settings.

The implementation of PATBM during the Covid-19 pandemic faced budget constraints, as the allocated funds were prioritized for Covid-19-related needs. As a result, there was a lack of adequate communication budget for essential tools like Zoom, Google, or WhatsApp Group Meetings. The limited technological proficiency, particularly with Zoom or other communication tools facilitating direct coordination with the community, posed further challenges.

Another coordination-related obstacle was the frequent changes in the subdistrict or village-level organizational structure, including leadership transitions. Such changes required the re-socialization of the PATBM program from the top down, necessitating uniform understanding and perception across all levels, ranging from the center, province, city, and district to the lowest sub-district or village. These frequent organizational shifts further hindered effective coordination efforts.

Another obstacle in the PATBM program is suboptimal human resources, particularly the PATBM facilitators or task force. These facilitators serve as development agents, assisting the community in community empowerment activities. Their role involves guiding, fostering, and directing the community toward self-sufficiency and establishing strong community institutions. To fulfill their responsibilities, facilitators are expected to (1) adhere to rules in the assisted areas, (2) carry out activities following...
specified procedures in technical instructions, and (3) address problems, provide training, and strengthen community groups. These duties necessitate active interaction with the community.

In Tangerang City, facilitators were appointed without undergoing any testing process. Acceptance as facilitators in the program was based on their willingness to join, without specific criteria or qualifications required for this role. Consequently, the number of facilitators in Tangerang City remains minimal, despite the escalating cases of sexual violence.

Interestingly, education and experience in community empowerment are not considered significant criteria for selecting a facilitator, as there are no specific specifications for becoming a PATBM facilitator. Additionally, due to the voluntary nature of the position, the salary provided to facilitators is meager. Furthermore, they are required to organize various community activities to convey prevention messages. As a result, facilitators often face difficulties executing activities that demand substantial financial resources (Dickson & Willis, 2017). Despite representing the government and playing a vital role in effecting behavioral changes within the community, their limited resources and qualifications pose significant challenges to implementing the PATBM program.

Moreover, children's unsupervised use of gadgets has emerged as another contributing factor to the rise in sexual violence against children during the Covid-19 pandemic. In Tangerang City, a significant proportion of sexual violence cases involving children were linked to their unrestricted access to smartphones and tablets without adequate parental supervision, particularly during the pandemic. As children shifted to online schooling, they had more freedom to utilize gadgets and access content that may not be suitable for their age.

To address this issue, DP3AP2KB has been trying to educate the public about the perils of exposing children to pornography. However, these educational initiatives have faced limitations during the pandemic, resulting in restricted information dissemination.

DP3AP2KB in Tangerang City encountered challenges in curbing the proliferation of pornographic content or explicit shows available on mobile phones. Information and broadcasting policies fall under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Communication and Information, leaving Tangerang City DP3AP2KB with limited authority to control or restrict such content on mobile devices. Despite their efforts, the
task force can only hope to minimize potential exposure to inappropriate content on mobile phones. The lack of comprehensive measures to address this issue during the pandemic has exacerbated the risk of sexual violence against children.

5 DISCUSSION

The research findings show that the PATBM program in Tangerang City has operated for nearly six years. While the program holds great potential for addressing sexual violence against children, its effectiveness heavily relies on proper implementation. Merely having a good program is insufficient to solve the underlying issues; it necessitates diligent execution.

Moreover, the program for sexual violence prevention must be an ongoing effort, given the persistently high levels of sexual violence in Indonesia. The pandemic, particularly the imposition of social restrictions, has exacerbated economic problems in many families. The prolonged unemployment and increased access to gadgets have significantly increased sexual violence cases against children in Indonesia, including Tangerang City.

Addressing this issue requires concerted efforts and a commitment from all stakeholders to bring about meaningful change. One promising approach is implementing the social-ecological model, which emphasizes primary prevention for sexual violence against children. This framework has demonstrated its effectiveness in preventing violence in the United States (Niolon, M.C. Kearns, J. Dills, K. Rambo, S. Irving, T.L. Armstead, 2007). The social-ecological model encompasses four key levels: individual, family, environment, and community, which are pivotal in shaping consciousness and promoting prevention efforts. By adopting this comprehensive approach and working collaboratively, society can strive to reduce and ultimately prevent sexual violence against children.

Undoubtedly, instilling the importance of preventing sexual violence against children poses significant challenges as it requires considerable time, effort, and thoughtful approaches to effect meaningful changes in people's thoughts, perceptions, and paradigms. The education provided plays a pivotal role in shaping children's social structure and character; hence, education for parents, teachers, and the community is vital in preventing sexual violence against children. Parents need to be educated about preventing violence within the family or by relatives, teachers need awareness regarding
preventing violence perpetrated by peers, teachers, or school staff, and the community must be equipped with understanding, awareness, and information dissemination regarding the prevention of sexual violence against children.

Implementing prevention efforts during the Covid-19 pandemic presented challenges; however, it remained imperative to continue these initiatives. Social media emerged as a viable alternative during the pandemic, though it lacked the effectiveness of face-to-face, two-way communication. Nevertheless, social media platforms offered a global reach, transcending traditional limitations of time and space, enabling the delivery of co-created direct messages across various platforms (Mccaughey et al., 2014). During the pandemic, the use of social media witnessed a significant surge (Naveen Donthu, 2020), with both positive and negative impacts. In disaster situations, social media proved beneficial in mobilizing resources, gathering data, verifying information, and disseminating knowledge (Potts, 2014).

Social media's appeal lies in its ability to facilitate one-to-many two-way communication, its ease of use for the public, and its accessibility. Furthermore, it has been identified as an ideal communication channel during disasters due to its low-cost, user-friendly features and widespread accessibility (Houston et al., 2014). However, while social media provides a plethora of easily accessible information, not all of it is necessary (Houston et al., 2014). Nevertheless, it contributes to enhancing general situational awareness and fosters two-way communication through various media or technology platforms at an affordable cost. In disaster scenarios, social media has effectively positioned itself alongside traditional mass media as the primary communication model (Zhang et al., 2019).

The government should strongly consider establishing a digital platform for reporting sexual harassment complaints, as technology has become an integral part of people's daily lives, accessible through mobile phones anytime and anywhere. This digital platform would provide ease of access to the entire community, enabling victims of sexual violence to report their cases without the need to visit complaint centers physically. Research on digital platforms in the prevention and handling of sexual violence on campuses has proven effective, with applications accessible for free, empowering individuals to protect themselves and immediately report incidents of sexual violence within the campus environment (Corcoran et al., 2020). The conventional implementation
of the PATBM program in Tangerang City has limitations in reaching a wider audience; therefore, a more modern and technologically-aligned strategy is imperative.

However, it is essential to acknowledge that along with the advantages, technology comes with its challenges. Given that the PATBM program is geared towards raising public awareness regarding sexual violence, effective communication must be adapted to the diverse community structure. Due to its real-time nature, online communication often results in unidirectional messages, overlooking the nuances of different ethnicities, cultures, and languages (Ghidei et al., 2022). Thus, while social media is a valuable tool, the PATBM program must complement it by physically visiting vulnerable communities or areas experiencing increased sexual violence against children during the Covid-19 pandemic. Door-to-door outreach by PATBM facilitators can play a significant role in preventing sexual violence against children by providing educational sessions on sexual prevention.

Any program's success hinges on its facilitators' capabilities, as they are responsible for delivering messages to the community. Thus, DP3AP2KB in Tangerang City must prioritize recruiting competent social workers, individuals well-versed in community empowerment, communication expertise, and innovation in message delivery. Reshaping societal paradigms is challenging, and effective communication techniques are paramount for facilitators. Therefore, a thorough evaluation of social worker or facilitator recruitment, particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic, is imperative. With the increasing cases of sexual violence against children, the government must enhance performance by increasing the number of facilitators and raising the standard of facilitators and services in preventing sexual violence against children (Bennett et al., 2021).

To enhance the capacity of PATBM facilitators, DP3AP2KB Tangerang City has been conducting annual training sessions facilitated by the Ministry of Women and Children Empowerment, DP3AKKB Banten Province, and DP3AP2KB Tangerang city. Before the Covid-19 pandemic, these trainings involved seminars and face-to-face capacity-building sessions. However, during the pandemic, the activities shifted online using virtual Zoom meetings and coordination through the WhatsApp application.

Improving child sexual abuse services requires significant attention from the government, particularly in providing counseling and mental health support. Studies have shown that the Covid-19 pandemic increased stress and anxiety due to social restrictions...
and confinement (Sun et al., 2022). Additionally, economic hardships in low- and middle-income countries, with widespread job losses and pay cuts, have further exacerbated the situation (Salerno et al., 2020). Policymakers must address these impacts alongside economic recovery by offering free counseling services for individuals experiencing mental health disorders.

Africa has implemented an effective program during the Covid-19 pandemic to address sexual violence against children by increasing human resources, particularly social workers, to handle cases of sexual violence and allocating additional funds to support prevention efforts (Uzobo & Ayinmoro, 2021). Similarly, adding counseling staff and facilitators during the pandemic has proven beneficial in reducing community diseases, including sexual violence against children, which has severe short- and long-term repercussions (Wood et al., 2020). Legal service programs conducted through community visits or door-to-door approaches can also play a crucial role in encouraging victims of child sexual abuse to report incidents and receive legal assistance (Brignone & Edleson, 2019). Consequently, PATBM facilitators should collaborate with legal experts to engage with villages, enhancing community awareness of laws and legislation about sexual harassment.

In addition to the previously discussed programs, disaster communication management emerges as a crucial area that requires policymakers' attention, particularly in preventing sexual violence against children. Disaster communication management entails the coordination and communication process involving the community, government, donors, and non-governmental organizations in disaster management arrangements (Eko Harry Susanto, 2011). In the case of DP3AP2KB in Tangerang City, the implementation of Covid-19 disaster management with social enforcement has unfortunately led to increased sexual abuse of children. The essence of disaster communication management lies in mitigating the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, in this study, has been associated with the surge in sexual violence against children. To address this issue, DP3AP2KB in Tangerang City must adopt a proactive approach, engaging in comprehensive planning, coordination with stakeholders, community involvement, and collaboration with non-governmental organizations. Developing and utilizing robust and comprehensive disaster communication plays a crucial role in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery, especially in the Covid-19 pandemic (Spialek & Houston, 2018).
Moreover, smartphones have been identified as contributing to sexual violence against children in Tangerang City. The addiction to watching pornographic videos has been linked to instances of rape and sexual harassment (Makin & Morczek, 2016). Pornography consumption has a strong influence on sexual violence against children in Indonesia. It is imperative for the government, community, and families to actively participate in protecting children from such violence. Research in Europe involving 4,564 children aged 14-17 years and in-depth interviews with 91 children revealed a correlation between continuous exposure to pornography and sexual violence perpetration (Stanley et al., 2018). Thus, comprehensive measures need to be taken to address the adverse effects of pornography consumption and ensure the safety and well-being of children.

6 CONCLUSION

The study identified several barriers the PATBM program faces in its efforts to prevent sexual violence against children, particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic. These barriers can be categorized into two main types: those related to human resources and technology. Human resource-related obstacles include a lack of coordination between different levels of government, limited technological proficiency among facilitators, inadequate budget allocation for the PATBM program, difficulties in effectively delivering messages to the community, low salary for facilitators, insufficient number of facilitators, and challenges in utilizing communication technology during the pandemic for both facilitators and the community.

Addressing these obstacles and ensuring the program's success requires implementing continuous and comprehensive strategies that can transform community perceptions and paradigms regarding the prevention of sexual violence against children. Facilitators must possess strong communication skills and be well-versed in technology literacy. Enhancing their performance can be achieved by providing competitive salaries and training to improve their communication and technology competencies.

Moreover, establishing digital platforms proves to be a valuable tool in disseminating information related to preventing and handling sexual violence against children. The public can easily access relevant resources and seek assistance by leveraging technology.

Another essential aspect to consider is implementing disaster communication management to mitigate the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the rise of sexual
violence against children. Engaging in effective communication planning and processing should be incorporated into the program offerings of DP3AP2KB in Tangerang City.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

It is important to acknowledge certain limitations in this study that may have impacted the findings. Firstly, the study focused solely on the PATBM program in Tangerang City, which may limit the generalizability of the results to other regions or contexts. Additionally, due to the qualitative nature of the research, the sample size was relatively small, comprising only the DP3AP2KB and PATBM facilitators. While efforts were made to ensure data accuracy and credibility, there may still be a possibility of bias or subjectivity in the responses provided during interviews and observations. Moreover, the study mainly relied on data collected during the Covid-19 pandemic, which may have affected the implementation and effectiveness of the PATBM program differently than during non-pandemic times.

FUTURE STUDIES

Given the importance of preventing sexual violence against children, future research should address the limitations identified in this study and explore additional aspects for a more comprehensive understanding. To enhance generalizability, studies could be conducted in various regions and involve larger and more diverse samples of stakeholders, including community members and child victims. Combining qualitative and quantitative methods may provide a more robust and nuanced analysis of the effectiveness of the PATBM program and its barriers. Additionally, investigations into the impact of the PATBM program after the pandemic subsides would be valuable to assess its long-term efficacy and potential changes in communication strategies. Furthermore, comparative studies between different prevention programs and digital platforms could offer insights into the most effective approaches. Finally, considering the evolving landscape of technology and communication, future studies should explore innovative methods to adapt the PATBM program to the changing needs and preferences of the community in the digital age.
In conclusion, by addressing these barriers and adopting strategic measures, the PATBM program can enhance its efficacy in preventing sexual violence against children. Significant progress can be made in safeguarding the well-being and safety of children in the community through a coordinated effort, involving competent facilitators, embracing technology, and implementing disaster communication management.
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