



Efforts to Address Domestic Violence Crimes in Pohuwato Regency

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<p>Abstract</p>	<p><i>This study aims to analyze the forms of efforts to prevent and address domestic violence crimes and to identify the obstacles encountered in these efforts. Using an empirical research method with a qualitative approach, data were collected through interviews and field observations. The data were analyzed descriptively to provide a factual overview of the dynamics of domestic violence handling within the community. The findings reveal that the family, as the smallest social unit, plays a significant role in shaping individual character; however, internal conflicts often escalate into violence due to low legal awareness, economic pressures, and infidelity. The study also shows that efforts to combat domestic violence are carried out through community outreach, public education, and case conferences involving family planning field officers (PLKB) in the villages. Moreover, the role of village-level police officers (Bhabinkamtibmas) is optimized to provide protection and assistance to victims. The study concludes that addressing domestic violence requires a collaborative, community-based approach, improved legal education, and strengthened roles of law enforcement and support institutions to minimize cases and ensure effective protection for victims.</i></p> <p>Keywords: Countermeasures; Criminal Acts; Domestic Violence; Pohuwato Regency; Prevention</p>
<p>Abstrak</p>	<p>Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis bentuk-bentuk penanggulangan tindak pidana Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga (KDRT) serta mengidentifikasi hambatan yang dihadapi dalam upaya tersebut. Menggunakan metode penelitian empiris dengan pendekatan kualitatif, data dikumpulkan melalui wawancara dan observasi lapangan. Teknik analisis data dilakukan secara deskriptif kualitatif untuk menggambarkan kondisi faktual mengenai dinamika penanganan KDRT di masyarakat. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa keluarga sebagai unit sosial terkecil memiliki pengaruh besar dalam pembentukan kepribadian, namun konflik internal sering kali berkembang menjadi kekerasan akibat rendahnya kesadaran hukum, faktor ekonomi, dan perselingkuhan. Temuan penelitian mengungkap bahwa penanggulangan KDRT dilakukan melalui sosialisasi, edukasi masyarakat, serta konferensi kasus yang melibatkan petugas lapangan PLKB di desa-desa. Selain itu, peran Bhabinkamtibmas Polsek di masing-masing desa dimaksimalkan dalam memberikan perlindungan dan pendampingan kepada korban. Kesimpulan penelitian menegaskan bahwa penanganan KDRT membutuhkan pendekatan kolaboratif berbasis masyarakat, peningkatan edukasi hukum, serta penguatan peran aparat dan lembaga pendukung untuk meminimalisir kasus dan memberikan perlindungan efektif bagi korban.</p> <p>Kata Kunci: Kabupaten Pohuwato; Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga; Penanggulangan; Tindak Pidana; Upaya</p>
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<p>History</p>	<p>Submitted: -07-2025 Reviewed: 08-2025 Revised: -09-2025 Accepted: -12-2025</p>

Introduction

The concept of “my home is my paradise” has long served as an ideal symbol for many families, particularly for women who view the home as a safe space to cultivate a harmonious family characterized by *sakinah*, *mawaddah*, and *rahmah*, filled with love and affection. The home is not merely a physical space for shelter and rest but also serves as the center for shaping values, morality, and the emotional well-being of all family members¹. Law Number 52 of 2009 concerning Population Development and Family Development emphasizes that the family is the smallest unit in society, encompassing psychological, social, and spiritual dynamics that significantly determine the quality of national life². Thus, the family should serve as the safest space for every individual to grow and develop without fear, pressure, or threat³.

Although the ideal family is envisioned as a place of love and protection, the reality on the ground shows that conflicts and disharmony often occur within families at varying intensities. Each family has its own way of resolving internal issues. When conflicts are managed in a healthy manner, the family can become a valuable learning environment for understanding emotions and developing emotional control among its members. However, if conflicts are addressed in an unhealthy, disproportionate way, or are marked by power imbalances, relational breakdowns, psychological stress, and the disruption of household harmony become inevitable. Such uncontrolled situations create opportunities for various forms of domestic violence (DV) to occur⁴.

Domestic Violence (DV) constitutes a serious violation that harms not only the physical body but also the mental, emotional, and personal dignity of the victim. The specific issue addressed in this paper is how DV is still often misunderstood as a “private family matter,” resulting in victims frequently not receiving adequate protection. This situation is further exacerbated by the normalization of violence, gender inequality, feelings of shame, fear of the perpetrator, and the public’s limited knowledge of victims’ rights. Consequently, many cases go unreported, while victims remain trapped in a recurring cycle of violence⁵.

Previous studies have attempted to offer approaches to reduce the incidence of domestic violence (DV), such as public education on healthy family relationships, strengthening victim service institutions, enhancing the capacity of authorities to handle DV cases, and establishing more responsive legal mechanisms for victims. The government has also enacted Law No. 23 of 2004 on the Elimination of Domestic Violence as a legal instrument providing a foundation for prevention, victim protection, and offender prosecution. Under this law, victims are entitled to receive family

¹ Mirna Sukoyati and Megan Asri Humaira, “Analisis Puisi Rumahku Surgaku Karya Muhammad Ichsan Dengan Pendekatan Struktural,” *Karimah Tauhid*, 1, no. 6 (2022): 789–98.

² U. U. (52). Tahun 2009 Nomor, “Perkembangan Kependudukan Dan Pembangunan Keluarga.” (2009).

³ Penelitian Kepada Masyarakat et al., “Faktor Penyebab Terjadinya Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga Terhadap Perempuan,” *Jurnal Pengabdian Dan Penelitian Kepada Masyarakat (JPPM)* 2, no. 1 (2021): 21.

⁴ Noibe Halawa and Famahato Lase, “Dampak Pernikahan Dini Pada Masa Remaja Awal,” *Journal of Literature Language and Academic Studies* 3, no. 02 (2024): 76, <https://doi.org/10.56855/jllans.v3i02.1175>.

⁵ Maaqid Alfariszi and Khoirul Ahsan, “Pelanggaran Hak Asasi Dalam Rumah Tangga Perspektif Hukum Keluarga Islam Dan Kitab Undang-Undang Hukum Positif Indonesia,” *Shar-E: Jurnal Kajian Ekonomi Hukum Syariah* 10, no. 2 (2024): 122–32.

protection, legal assistance, social support, healthcare services, and spiritual guidance as part of comprehensive recovery.

Despite the availability of various approaches and regulations, there are still significant limitations in their implementation. Previous studies indicate that many domestic violence (DV) victims remain unreached by protection services, due to a lack of courage to report, limited access to information, or weak responses from authorities toward cases perceived as “domestic issues.” Moreover, existing regulations often fail to address the root causes, such as gender inequality, patriarchal culture, social stigma, and low legal literacy among the public. As a result, the incidence of violence remains high, and victims do not receive adequate protection. This is evidenced by annual reports from the National Commission on Violence Against Women (Komnas Perempuan), which document thousands of DV cases occurring each year⁶.

This paper offers a different approach by emphasizing the importance of integrating law enforcement, victim empowerment, and the strengthening of a human rights-based justice perspective. This approach not only highlights normative legal aspects but also the socio-cultural dynamics underlying the occurrence of domestic violence (DV). The comprehensive approach includes public education, engagement of village or urban administrative units, capacity building for law enforcement officers, and cross-agency collaboration in providing integrated services for victims. Thus, addressing DV is not only curative but also preventive and transformative in the long term.

Based on this background, the objectives of this study are: (1) to analyze the forms, causes, and dynamics of Domestic Violence (DV) in Indonesia, particularly in Pohuwato Regency; (2) to examine the effectiveness of Law Number 23 of 2004 in providing legal protection for victims; (3) to identify structural, cultural, and institutional obstacles in addressing DV; and (4) to propose an alternative approach that is more effective, humane, and just for preventing and handling DV cases. This research is expected to contribute academically while also providing practical recommendations for local governments, law enforcement agencies, and communities in creating a safe, harmonious, and violence-free family environment.

Methods

This study employs an empirical approach using qualitative methods to provide an in-depth description of social realities and the role of relevant institutions in addressing the crime of domestic violence (KDRT)⁷. The empirical approach is chosen because it offers a more comprehensive understanding of how the law functions within society, rather than merely how written law regulates an issue. Through qualitative methods, the researcher can explore data derived from lived experiences, perceptions,

⁶ Andi Nur, Fikriana Aulia, and A Ummu Fauziyyah Syafruddin, “Relasi Kuasa Dan Ketimpangan Gender Dalam Pembagian Harta Gono-Gini : Kajian Sosio-Legal Atas Putusan Perceraian Di Indonesia,” *Risalah Hukum* 21, no. Juni (2025): 51–61.

⁷ Muhammad Ilham Saharuddin, Andi Suriyaman M Pide, Yunus Wahid and Rahmi Sahabuddin Arisaputra, Dzikra Ridha Dwi Aribah, “Tayade System Land Rights : The Concept of Unification of Customary Law and Indonesian Tayade System Land Rights : The Concept of Unification of Customary Law and Indonesian Positive Law,” in *The First Forest and Society International Conference 2024 (The 1st FSIC 2024)* (IOP Conf. Series: Earth and Environmental Science 1430 (2024) 012005, 2024), 3, <https://doi.org/10.1088/1755-1315/1430/1/012005>.

and field practices, allowing the research findings to be not only descriptive but also interpretive. As stated by Soerjono Soekanto and Sri Mamudji, legal research does not solely focus on normative analyses of legislation but also encompasses empirical legal studies that emphasize the effectiveness of the law when applied in social life⁸. Based on this foundation, the study aims to examine how regulations concerning the handling of domestic violence are implemented, the extent to which protection mechanisms operate, and how communities respond to the presence of service institutions⁹.

In this context, the empirical approach is used to thoroughly investigate the role of the Integrated Service Center for the Empowerment of Women and Children (P2TP2A) in efforts to address domestic violence at the regional level. As an integrated service institution, P2TP2A holds a strategic function in providing protection, assistance, and recovery services for victims of domestic violence. Through interviews, observations, and other field data collection techniques, this study analyzes the extent to which P2TP2A carries out its mandate, including the structural, cultural, and technical barriers it encounters in handling cases. This approach allows the researcher to identify discrepancies between normative provisions and the actual implementation of services in the field. Furthermore, the study also assesses how P2TP2A coordinates with law enforcement agencies, relevant government offices, and the community to establish an effective protection system for victims. Thus, this research not only presents empirical conditions but also offers an in-depth understanding of the dynamics of domestic violence handling at the regional level.

Results And Discussions

Women's Empowerment, Child Protection, Population Control, and Family Planning Office

The Regional Government Apparatus Organization (OPD) of Pohuwato Regency responsible for the protection of women and children is the Office of Women's Empowerment, Child Protection, Population Control, and Family Planning. Programs for preventing violence against women, as part of efforts to address domestic violence, are carried out by the Division of Women's Protection and the Division of Child Protection. Meanwhile, the technical functions related to receiving complaints and providing assistance to victims of domestic violence fall under the duties and responsibilities of the Technical Implementation Unit for Women and Child Protection (UPTD PPA). Nevertheless, UPTD PPA remains actively involved in domestic violence prevention initiatives implemented by the Pohuwato Regency Government, particularly through the relevant OPD.

As explained by Mrs. Nining Haluta, S.AP., MM, the Head of UPTD PPA, prevention programs are carried out through two main mechanisms: public outreach

⁸ Durrotun Nafisah, Fadil Sj, and Khoiril Hidayah, "Virtual Mediation in Islamic Religious Civil Cases Soerjono Soekanto Theory of Law Enforcement Perspective," *Budapest International Research and Critics Institute-Journal (BIRCI-Journal)* 5, no. 2 (2022): 12892–902.

⁹ Thi Minh Le et al., "The Evolution of Domestic Violence Prevention and Control in Vietnam from 2003 to 2018 : A Case Study of Policy Development and Implementation within the Health System," *International Journal of Mental Health Systems* 13, no. 41 (2019): 1–16, <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13033-019-0295-6>.

activities and case conferences. Outreach activities are conducted either on the initiative of the office or upon request from external parties such as schools or women's organizations. These outreach and educational programs are delivered to the general public, parents, students, teachers, school administrative staff (when held in educational institutions), as well as members of women's organizations. The outreach sessions are conducted with the involvement of resource persons from the police and clinical psychology professionals who collaborate with the Office. These efforts aim to enhance public understanding that domestic violence carries serious physical and psychological consequences for victims, and that perpetrators are subject to legal sanctions.

Meanwhile, the case conference is a counseling technique used to resolve specific cases that arise in the community by involving all key parties related to the case. The purpose of this technique is to obtain complete information and conduct an in-depth analysis of the data, allowing for an effective interpretation of the individual's overall problems¹⁰. For the relevant authorities, this process enables the formulation of comprehensive policy strategies for case handling. The case conference technique is organized by the Office of Women's Empowerment, Child Protection, Population Control, and Family Planning, in an integrated manner, together with functional officers from the Family Planning Field Workers (PLKB) assigned to each district.

According to Wibowo, a case conference is a planned meeting held to discuss the conditions and problems of an individual or several individuals, in which a small group collaboratively synthesizes and interprets known facts about that person. A case conference is also understood as an opportunity for all involved parties to discuss a case with an expert who specializes in a particular field, conducted in a dedicated meeting. Other scholars view the case conference as a medium used to find solutions for a counselee by facilitating discussions among parties connected to the counseling problem.

The case conference technique is facilitated by clinical assessment experts who collaborate with the Office, providing education and simulation training for Field Officers when they encounter community-related issues in the field.

"The government hopes that through public outreach and education on domestic violence, the community—especially husbands and wives—will gain a full understanding and awareness of the importance of controlling emotions when conflicts arise within the household. This is to ensure that there are no unnecessary victims and that no perpetrators are forced to end up in prison," stated Mrs. Nining Haluta, S.AP., MM to the researcher. (Interview, 10 March 2025)

"Meanwhile, the case conference serves as the government's effort to find solutions and reconcile the parties involved, so that there is no need to proceed with domestic violence cases to the police or the courts." (Nining Haluta). (Interview, 10 March 2025).

Based on the points above, the author concludes that public outreach and education can provide the community with an understanding that household matters are indeed a private domain; however, it is unjustifiable for such matters to result in physical harm—whether minor or severe—which is most frequently experienced by wives (women).

¹⁰ Hasyim Hasanah, "Teknik Case Conference Dalam Konseling Islam Perkembangan Kehidupan Manusia Yang Semakin Kompleks," *KONSELING RELIGI: Jurnal Bimbingan Konseling Islam* 6, no. 1 (2015): 193–210.

Table 1. Case Data Obtained from the P2TP2A Office

Year	Number of Cases	Types of Services Provided
2022	21 cases	(1) Report intake; (2) Basic assessment; (3) Assistance to the Women and Children Protection Unit (Unit PPA) of Pohuwato Police / without assistance; (4) Resolution through mediation.
2023	29 cases	(1) Report intake; (2) Basic assessment; (3) Assistance to the Women and Children Protection Unit (Unit PPA) of Pohuwato Police / without assistance; (4) Resolution through mediation.
2024	26 cases	(1) Report intake; (2) Basic assessment; (3) Assistance to the Women and Children Protection Unit (Unit PPA) of Pohuwato Police / without assistance; (4) Resolution through mediation.

The data presented in Table 1 illustrate the trend of domestic violence (KDRT) case handling by the Pohuwato Regency P2TP2A Office over the past three years, from 2022 to 2024. The number of cases shows fluctuations, with 21 cases recorded in 2022, rising to 29 cases in 2023, and declining again to 26 cases in 2024. The decrease in 2024 may indicate improved public awareness, the effectiveness of services, or the success of prevention programs; however, it may also reflect the continued presence of unreported cases (underreporting). Nevertheless, the data confirm that domestic violence remains a social issue requiring serious attention, particularly in the context of protecting women and children in Pohuwato.

Each reported case receives a series of standard services from P2TP2A, including report intake as the initial response to complaints, basic assessments to identify the needs of victims, and assistance to the Women and Children Protection Unit (Unit PPA) of the Pohuwato Police for cases requiring legal proceedings. Not all victims choose to receive direct assistance, resulting in some cases being forwarded without accompaniment. Additionally, some cases are resolved through mediation, especially when victims consider family unity or other social factors. This pattern of services demonstrates that P2TP2A functions not only as a reporting body but also as a provider of comprehensive services encompassing legal, psychological, and social aspects. Thus, the data illustrate the strategic role of P2TP2A as the frontline institution in efforts to address domestic violence in Pohuwato Regency.

Analysis from the Office of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection of Pohuwato Regency

Based on the researcher’s analysis, domestic violence (KDRT) cases in Pohuwato Regency over the past three years have shown fluctuations, with an increase in cases in 2023 followed by a decline in 2024. This decrease indicates that the preventive efforts of the local government—such as public outreach and case conferences—are beginning to show positive results. However, sustained commitment, cross-institutional collaboration, and improvements in service delivery are required to consistently reduce the incidence of domestic violence.

The KDRT prevention programs implemented by the relevant OPD through public education and dialogic approaches in case conferences are considered effective

strategies. The humanistic and educational approach conveyed by the Head of UPTD PPA aims to reduce the criminalization of perpetrators while supporting the recovery of victims. Moving forward, strengthening these programs through increased frequency, regular evaluations, and expanded community-based education will be essential for ensuring sustainable domestic violence prevention.

Efforts to resolve domestic violence cases at the Office of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection in Pohuwato Regency must integrate legal, psychological, educational, and social approaches. Mediation should not be the sole option for resolution, especially when it fails to guarantee the protection of victims. Therefore, strengthening women's protection institutions and enhancing cross-sectoral coordination are crucial to breaking the cycle of violence and creating safe and healthy families holistically.

The following efforts are being undertaken:

1. Strengthening Safe and Professional Mediation Mechanisms
2. Post-Mediation Monitoring
3. Optimization of UPTD PPA Functions
4. Legal Education and Family Awareness
5. Enhancement of Inter-Agency Coordination
6. Reformulation of Policies for Handling Domestic Violence

Efforts to Address Domestic Violence by the Pohuwato District Police (POLRES Pohuwato)

Based on Articles 4 and 6 of the Indonesian Criminal Procedure Code (KUHAP), the duties of the Police in law enforcement are to conduct preliminary inquiries and investigations. However, in practice, the police often exercise their discretionary authority (I Made Agus Mahendra Iswara, SH, p. 121). This police authority is referred to as Police Discretion. The basis for this discretion is found in Article 18 paragraph (1) of Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police, which states:

“For the sake of public interest, officers of the Indonesian National Police, in carrying out their duties and authorities, may act according to their own judgment.”

One form of police policy in enforcing the law in society is the mediation of criminal acts classified as minor offenses or those occurring within the family or household. Penal Mediation begins during the investigation process. It is at this stage that penal mediation takes place. This represents the application of a penal mediation model carried out by criminal justice personnel in the execution of their formal duties, in which police officers advise families in conflict in an effort to calm the situation without pursuing criminal prosecution (I Made Agus Mahendra Iswara, SH, p. 122).

According to Bripka Muhammad Faisal, SH, Acting Head of the Women and Children Protection Unit (PPA) of the Pohuwato Police, penal mediation has become the priority mechanism for resolving domestic violence cases in Pohuwato Regency. From 2022 to 2025, domestic violence complaints have been handled using penal mediation to obtain the best possible solution for married couples. A husband and wife are categorized as victims or parties to a domestic violence case only if they are legally married under the Marriage Law and can present a marriage book and national identity cards. If they claim to be married but cannot produce a marriage book, the violence is

classified legally as assault, not domestic violence (Bripka Muhammad Faisal, SH). (Interview, 12 May 2025)

Bripka Muhammad Faisal, SH, further explained that most domestic violence complaints filed with the PPA Unit of the Pohuwato Police involve violence committed by husbands against their wives. Cases of wives committing violence against their husbands have not occurred in recent years. To his knowledge, there has been only one case where the husband was the victim, and this incident occurred a long time ago, during his earlier assignment at a police sector office. (Interview, 12 May 2025)

Data on Domestic Violence Complaints at the Pohuwato District Police (Polres Pohuwato) are as follows:

Table 2. PPA Unit of Pohuwato Police, 2025

Year	Number of Cases	Case Resolution Details
2022	4 cases	3 cases resolved through mediation; 1 case unresolved due to the victim/reporting party being unreachable.
2023	12 cases	1 case forwarded to the Prosecutor's Office; 11 cases resolved through mediation.
2024	10 cases	All 10 cases resolved through mediation.
2025 (until April)	7 cases	6 cases resolved through mediation; 1 case still under process at the PPA Unit of Pohuwato Police.

Table 2. illustrates the development of domestic violence (KDRT) case handling based on their final outcomes from 2022 to April 2025 in Pohuwato Regency. Overall, the data show that the majority of cases were resolved through mediation. In 2022, a total of 4 cases were recorded, with 3 cases successfully resolved through mediation, while one case could not be followed up due to the reporting party being unreachable. This situation reflects ongoing challenges in communication and case continuity, which often occur when victims experience psychological pressure or fear that discourages them from pursuing legal processes.

In 2023, the number of cases increased to 12. Although one case was forwarded to the Prosecutor's Office due to the presence of more serious criminal elements, the remaining 11 cases opted for mediation as the method of resolution. The reliance on mediation strengthened further in 2024, when all 10 recorded cases were resolved through this approach. As of April 2025, 7 cases had been handled, with 6 resolved through mediation and 1 still under legal process at the PPA Unit of Pohuwato Police. These data indicate that mediation remains the preferred option for the community in resolving domestic violence conflicts, whether due to emotional factors, considerations regarding children's future, or a desire to preserve family unity. However, the dominance of mediation also suggests the need for a deeper evaluation of its effectiveness, particularly in cases of repeated violence or those involving high levels of severity. The data underscore the crucial role of law enforcement and service institutions in ensuring that mediation-based resolutions protect victims' rights and do not overlook justice or safety concerns.

Based on the case data and the explanations regarding case resolution, it can be concluded that the implementation of the penal mediation model in handling domestic violence cases at the Pohuwato District Police has been functioning effectively and appropriately.

Based on the points above, according to I Made Agus Mahendra Iswara, SH, the advantages of resolving domestic violence cases through penal mediation include:

1. Improving familial relationships between the parties;
2. Cost-efficiency, as mediation requires significantly lower expenses;
3. Faster resolution of cases;
4. Preserving ongoing relationships or ending them in a more amicable manner;
5. Assisting the judicial system in resolving disputes;
6. Protecting the future of children, as their parents do not end up separated or in ongoing conflict.

In preventing the rise of domestic violence cases within the jurisdiction of the Pohuwato District Police, Bripka Muhammad Faisal, SH explains that the primary responsibility lies with the Bhabinkamtibmas officers who oversee one or two villages under the supervision of the Community Guidance Unit (Satbinmas) of the Pohuwato Police. Nevertheless, the involvement of the PPA Unit in community-based prevention takes place through their role as resource persons in activities organized by the local government's Office for Women's Empowerment and Child Protection.

In accordance with the duties and functions of the PPA Unit under the Criminal Investigation Division (Reskrim), their outreach and educational materials focus on Law Number 23 of 2004 on the Elimination of Domestic Violence, specifically:

1. Article 5 in conjunction with Articles 6, 7, 8, and their elucidations, as well as Article 9, which outline the types of domestic violence; and
2. The criminal provisions applicable to perpetrators of domestic violence, contained in Articles 44 through 53, which stipulate the penalties and sanctions.

Researcher's Analysis of the Handling of Domestic Violence Cases by POLRES Pohuwato

Based on the findings of this study, data on Domestic Violence (KDRT) reports at the Pohuwato District Police (POLRES Pohuwato) indicate a significant increase in cases in 2023, followed by a decrease in the subsequent two years. This fluctuation suggests that the dynamics of domestic violence reporting are strongly influenced by public awareness, the willingness of victims to report, and the effectiveness of the available service mechanisms.

The majority of domestic violence cases at POLRES Pohuwato are resolved through mediation. The dominance of non-litigation settlements reflects a societal preference for peaceful, out-of-court resolutions, particularly in minor domestic violence cases. On the one hand, mediation can serve as an efficient means to restore family relations. On the other hand, this approach requires strong monitoring and protection mechanisms to prevent revictimization or repeated violence.

The use of police discretion through penal mediation in handling minor domestic violence cases can be considered a progressive step, aligning with the principles of restorative justice, which emphasize relationship restoration, meeting victims' needs, and ensuring perpetrators' proportional accountability. Nevertheless, the application of restorative justice in domestic violence cases must be accompanied by clear legal boundaries and strict oversight. This is essential to ensure that mediation is not misused or becomes a loophole for perpetrators to repeat their acts of violence.

Therefore, continuous support mechanisms, risk assessments for victims, and strengthened coordination between the Women and Children Protection Unit (Unit

PPA), the Integrated Service Center for the Protection of Women and Children (UPTD PPA), and other relevant institutions are required. These measures are necessary to ensure that mediation-based settlements remain within the framework of legal protection for victims and support a fair and responsive law enforcement approach to domestic violence issues.

Penal Measures Penal measures refer to efforts in addressing criminal acts through the application of criminal law, specifically within the criminal justice system. This approach includes law enforcement procedures, judicial processes, and the imposition of criminal sanctions as a formal response to a criminal offense.

Legal Basis

- Articles 4 and 6 of the Indonesian Criminal Procedure Code (KUHAP): These provisions state that the police have the primary responsibility to conduct preliminary inquiries and investigations as part of the law enforcement process.
- Article 18(1) of Law No. 2 of 2002 on the Indonesian National Police: This regulation grants police officers the authority to take necessary actions based on their own judgment (discretion) in order to safeguard public interest

Challenges Faced in Addressing Domestic Violence (KDRT) by the Office of Women's Empowerment, Child Protection, Population Control, and Family Planning

Based on the researcher's investigation at the UPTD for Women and Child Protection, several challenges were identified:

1. Limited budget for outreach and socialization programs, resulting in activities being concentrated only in remote subdistricts such as Popayato and Lemito. These areas are prioritized not only to prevent domestic violence but also because victims in these regions encounter significant difficulties accessing the UPTD PPA services. Therefore, women are advised that, in the event of domestic violence, they should report the incident to the hamlet chief or village head and seek immediate medical assistance from the nearest community health center (Puskesmas) to obtain an initial medical examination, which serves as supporting evidence when reporting to the police.
2. Requests for outreach and educational activities remain limited, mostly coming from specific schools and women's organizations, such as the wives' organizations of the military (TNI) and police (Polri). Consequently, efforts to disseminate domestic violence prevention information have not been maximized, especially for women who are highly vulnerable to domestic abuse.
3. Insufficient human resources to serve as technical support staff, which affects the quality of assistance provided to victims. In addition to handling domestic violence cases, the UPTD PPA is also responsible for cases involving child abuse, child neglect, and other related issues, leading to an increased workload.
4. Lack of mobility and distribution of informational materials, such as pamphlets, brochures, and billboards, especially to remote villages. These dissemination efforts have not been carried out due to budget limitations.

Conclusion

Efforts to combat domestic violence in Pohuwato Regency are carried out by the Office of Women's Empowerment, Child Protection, Population Control, and Family

Planning through various programs, including public awareness campaigns, educational outreach to communities, teachers, students, and women's organizations, as well as case conference activities for Family Planning Field Officers (PLKB) across all subdistricts in Pohuwato. Meanwhile, the Pohuwato Resort Police (Polres Pohuwato) deploys community police officers (Bhabinkamtibmas) in pairs—each responsible for two villages—to conduct direct preventive measures within the community. The primary challenges encountered in addressing domestic violence include limited budget allocations, which restrict the dissemination of information across the entire regency, and insufficient technical personnel, which affects the overall effectiveness and responsiveness of domestic violence case handling. These constraints hinder the optimal delivery of services and reduce the reach of preventive interventions to vulnerable populations.

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