




## A Criminological Review of Prostitution Crimes in Pohuwato Regency

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<p><b>Abstract</b></p>	<p><i>This study aims to analyze the crime of prostitution in Pohuwato Regency from a criminological perspective, with a focus on the causal factors behind prostitution and the law enforcement efforts undertaken to address it. The research employs an empirical legal method with a descriptive qualitative approach. Data were collected through interviews with police officers and community leaders, as well as documentation from official reports. The findings indicate that prostitution in Pohuwato Regency is driven by internal factors such as biological pressures, the desire to pursue a luxurious lifestyle, and a lack of self-control. On the other hand, external factors—including poverty, environmental influence, weak family roles, and the ease of access to digital technology—serve as major contributors to the rise of online prostitution, particularly through the MiChat application. Law enforcement efforts include preventive, repressive, and rehabilitative measures carried out in collaboration with the police, the community, and the local government. This study concludes that prostitution is a multidimensional crime that requires an integrated approach involving various stakeholders.</i></p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Criminology; Crime; Prostitution</p>
<p><b>Abstrak</b></p>	<p>Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis kejahatan prostitusi di Kabupaten Pohuwato dari sudut pandang kriminologi, dengan fokus pada faktor-faktor penyebab terjadinya prostitusi dan upaya penegakan hukum yang dilakukan untuk menanggulangnya. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah hukum empiris dengan pendekatan deskriptif kualitatif. Data dikumpulkan melalui wawancara dengan aparat kepolisian dan tokoh masyarakat serta dokumentasi dari laporan resmi. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa prostitusi di Kabupaten Pohuwato di sebabkan oleh faktor internal seperti tekanan biologis, keinginan untuk memenuhi gaya hidup mewah, serta kurangnya kontrol diri. Di sisi lain, faktor eksternal seperti kemiskinan, pengaruh lingkungan, lemahnya peran keluarga, serta kemudahan akses teknologi menjadi penyebab utama semakin berkembangnya prostitusi online, khususnya melalui aplikasi MiChat. Upaya penegakan hukum yang dilakukan meliputi tindakan preventif, represif, dan rehabilitasi yang melibatkan kerja sama antara kepolisian, masyarakat, dan pemerintah daerah. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa kejahatan prostitusi merupakan persoalan multidimensional yang memerlukan pendekatan terpadu dari berbagai pihak.</p> <p><b>Kata Kunci:</b> Kriminologi; Kejahatan; Prostitusi</p>
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## Introduction

Prostitution in Indonesia is viewed as a criminal act that is inconsistent with legal norms and the fundamental principles of human rights<sup>1</sup>. Generally, the causes of criminal behavior may stem from internal factors within the individual, including psychological aspects such as emotional or personality disorders, as well as specific factors such as mental dysfunction and low intellectual capacity. In addition, external factors—particularly influences from the surrounding social environment—can also trigger criminal actions. In response to these contributing factors, efforts to prevent crime are carried out through *penal policy*, *criminal policy*, or *strafrechtspolitik*, which aim to address criminal acts through the enforcement of criminal law<sup>2</sup>.

Advancements in science, technology, and communication have brought significant transformations to social life. These developments not only provide positive impacts by simplifying daily activities, but also produce negative consequences, particularly in the realm of online morality. One increasingly widespread negative impact is the rise of prostitution, the use of the internet for sexual purposes, and the utilization of digital platforms as a medium for sexual expression or fulfillment, commonly referred to as cybersex<sup>3</sup>.

According to general public perception, prostitution is understood as sexual relations between a man and a woman outside a legitimate marital bond. This act is viewed as morally and ethically degrading, considered a sin in religious teachings, and regarded as disgraceful and repugnant from a societal perspective. However, on the other hand, prostitution is also perceived by some as a profession and an economic activity aimed at generating financial gain<sup>4</sup>.

Prostitution has the potential to threaten safety, peace, and well-being—physically, mentally, and socially—especially when associated with sexually transmitted diseases and violations of societal, religious, customary, and moral norms. Therefore, society is expected to uphold religious values, traditions, and cultural norms. The issue of prostitution also poses a threat to the younger generation, considering that many service providers involved are still very young<sup>5</sup>. Prostitution is defined as “*the activity of providing sexual services in exchange for financial or other benefits*.” Thus, prostitution becomes a source of income by engaging in sexual relations with various individuals for monetary gain<sup>6</sup>.

Almost all religions in the world prohibit prostitution, which is fundamentally considered a form of adultery. In Islam, the prohibition of prostitution is mentioned in

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<sup>1</sup> Sinatul Haya, “Prinsip Hukum Terhadap Larangan Prostitusi Di Indonesia Legal Principles Regarding the Prohibition of Prostitution in Indonesia,” *Jurnal Ilmiah AKSES* 3, no. 2 (2025).

<sup>2</sup> Zahra Permata Sari et al., “ANALISIS PSIKOLOGIS TERHADAP PENYEBAB TINDAKAN KRIMINAL,” *NETIZEN: JOURNAL OF SOCIETY AND BUSSINESS* 2, no. 6 (2025): 160–66.

<sup>3</sup> Kristian Daneback et al., “An Internet Study of Cybersex Participants,” *Archives of Sexual Behavior* 34, no. 3 (2005): 321–28, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10508-005-3120-z>.

<sup>4</sup> Studi Fenomenologi et al., “KEHIDUPAN PROSTITUSI DAN AGAMA (Studi Fenomenologi Pekerja Seks Komersial Di Tanjung Bira Kab. Bulukumba),” *Journal Sociology of Education VI* (2018): 21–32.

<sup>5</sup> Yola Fitri Amalia, “Yola Fitri Amalia, et Al., Penyidikan Tindak Pidana Prostitusi Online, PAMPAS, Vol No.2, 2021.,” 2021, Universitas Jambi.

<sup>6</sup> Lisa Maher et al., “Selling Sex in Unsafe Spaces : Sex Work Risk Environments in Phnom Penh , Cambodia Selling Sex in Unsafe Spaces : Sex Work Risk Environments in Phnom Penh , Cambodia,” *Harm Reduction Journal* 30, no. November (2011).

the Qur'an, Surah Al-Isra verse 32, which states: *"Do not approach adultery by engaging in anything that leads toward it."* Similarly, in Christian teachings, the prohibition of adultery is found in the Book of Exodus 20:14, which states: *"You shall not commit adultery."* Thus, it is clear that various religions firmly forbid prostitution<sup>7</sup>.

In the Indonesian Criminal Code (KUHP), not all individuals involved in online prostitution can be subjected to criminal sanctions because the KUHP does not explicitly prohibit prostitution or online prostitution. The KUHP only prohibits prostitution conducted by individuals who wander or operate on streets and in public places. However, the KUHP does criminalize procurers or pimps, who may face imprisonment or fines.

The prohibition against acting as a pimp is regulated in Article 506 of the KUHP, which states:

*"Anyone who derives income from the immoral acts of a woman and makes such acts his or her livelihood shall be punished with imprisonment for up to one year."*

Another provision is found in Article 296 of the KUHP, which states:

*"Anyone who intentionally causes or facilitates immoral acts with another person, and makes such acts a livelihood or habit, shall be punished with imprisonment for up to one year and four months or a fine of up to fifteen thousand rupiah."*

Legal Basis for Prostitution under the Electronic Information and Transactions Law (UU ITE) Law Number 11 of 2008 concerning Electronic Information and Transactions (UU ITE) does not explicitly mention prostitution in any of its provisions, except for Article 27 paragraph (1), which regulates prohibited acts related to morality, specifically matters associated with pornography. Article 27 of the UU ITE states:

*"Any person who knowingly and without authority distributes and/or transmits and/or makes accessible electronic information or electronic documents containing content that violates decency shall be subject to punishment."*

Legal Basis for Prostitution under the Pornography Law (Law No. 44 of 2008) Regarding prostitution, this law uses the term *pornographic services*, defined in Article 1 paragraph (2) as follows:

*"Pornographic services are all types of pornographic services provided by individuals or corporations through live performances, terrestrial television, radio, telephone, the internet and other electronic communications, as well as newspapers, magazines, and other printed materials."*

The practice of prostitution regulated under the Pornography Law is addressed in Article 4 paragraph (2) letter (d), which states:

*"Every person is prohibited from providing pornographic services that offer or display, whether directly or indirectly, sexual services."*

For commercial sex workers, the Pornography Law further regulates their involvement in Article 8, which states:

*"Every person is prohibited from knowingly or with their consent becoming an object or model containing pornographic content."*

The sanctions related to violations of the Pornography Law are also specifically directed at the parties involved. For example, Article 30 of the Pornography Law provides:

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<sup>7</sup> Khoirunnisya, "Tinjauan Kriminologis Terhadap Kejahatan Prostitusi Online Melalui Aplikasi Michat Di Wilayah Hukum Kota Jambi," 2023.

*"Any person who provides pornographic services as referred to in Article 4 paragraph (2) shall be punished with imprisonment for a minimum of 6 (six) months and a maximum of 6 (six) years and/or a fine of at least Rp 250,000,000 (two hundred fifty million rupiah) and at most Rp 3,000,000,000 (three billion rupiah)."*

Legal Basis for Prostitution under Law Number 21 on the Crime of Human Trafficking (TPPO) Article 2 paragraph (1) stipulates:

*"Any person who engages in the recruitment, transportation, harboring, sending, transferring, or receiving of a person by means of threats, force, abduction, confinement, forgery, fraud, abuse of power or a position of vulnerability, debt bondage, or giving payments or benefits, even with the consent of the person who has control over the other person, for the purpose of exploiting that person within the territory of the Republic of Indonesia, shall be punished with imprisonment for a minimum of 3 (three) years and a maximum of 15 (fifteen) years and a fine of at least Rp 120,000,000 (one hundred twenty million rupiah) and at most Rp 600,000,000 (six hundred million rupiah)."*

## Methods

The research method used in this study is empirical legal research<sup>8</sup>, which is an approach that utilizes empirical facts obtained from human behavior—both in the form of verbal statements through interviews and observable actions. This method may also be used to examine the outcomes of human behavior as reflected in physical artifacts or archival records<sup>9</sup>.

The object of this research is a criminological review of prostitution-related crimes in Pohuwato Regency. The field research was conducted at the Pohuwato District Police (Polres Pohuwato), with additional information gathered in Palopo Village, Marisa District<sup>10</sup>.

The types and sources of data in this study consist of two categories:

1. Primary data, obtained directly from sources such as respondents through surveys, questionnaires, interviews, and direct interaction with relevant parties; and
2. Secondary data, obtained indirectly through intermediaries, including previously available data, notes or documentation, and publications issued by official data-collecting institutions.

Data collection techniques included conducting interviews and requesting necessary data from Polres Pohuwato. In addition, the researcher gathered information from legislation, journals, books, and media sources<sup>11</sup>.

For data analysis, the researcher processed and examined the interview results relevant to the study, analyzing the patterns and mechanisms of prostitution-related

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<sup>8</sup> Saharuddin Sahar et al., "Transfer of Land Rights in the Tayade System," *Petita: Jurnal Kajian Ilmu Hukum Dan Syariah* 10, no. 1 (2025): 195–210, <https://doi.org/10.22373/petita.v10i1.412>.

<sup>9</sup> Z. Ali, "Metode Penelitian Hukum." (Jakarta: Sinar Grafika., 2021), 105.

<sup>10</sup> Ika Atikah, "Metode Penelitian Hukum" (Sukabumi: Haura Utama, 2022), 63.

<sup>11</sup> M Nafisatur, "Metode Pengumpulan Data Penelitian," *Metode Pengumpulan Data Penelitian* 3, no. 5 (2024): 5423–43.

crime occurring in Pohuwato Regency using a criminological perspective and a qualitative descriptive method<sup>12</sup>.

## **Results And Discussions**

### **Factors Contributing to Prostitution in Pohuwato Regency**

The Regional Government Agency (Organisasi Perangkat Daerah/OPD) of Pohuwato Regency responsible for women and child protection is the Office of Women's Empowerment, Child Protection, Population Control, and Family Planning. Programs aimed at preventing violence against women, as part of efforts to address domestic violence crimes, are carried out by the division for women's protection and the division for child protection. Meanwhile, the technical aspects of complaint services and assistance for victims of domestic violence fall under the duties and functions of the Technical Implementation Unit for Women and Child Protection (UPTD PPA). Nevertheless, the UPTD PPA remains actively involved in all domestic violence prevention initiatives implemented by the Pohuwato Regency Government through the aforementioned OPD.

Prostitution is a form of exchange in which an individual offers sexual services in return for money or other material benefits. This activity involves more than one party and is categorized as a form of sexual service trade. Generally, prostitution is considered to be in conflict with prevailing social, religious, and legal norms. In national law, this practice is also classified as a criminal act, especially when it involves cases of human trafficking.

In addition to violating social norms, prostitution poses various negative impacts on its perpetrators, such as an increased risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases, exposure to violence, and exploitation. Socially, the presence of prostitution can lead to moral degradation within the community and contribute to the spread of diseases. In the digital era, this practice has transformed into online prostitution, where sexual services are offered through the internet. This new form introduces additional challenges, particularly concerning the protection of human rights and law enforcement in the digital sphere.

Prostitution is one of the forms of social deviance influenced by various interrelated factors. Economic factors are among the most dominant, where poverty, unemployment, and socioeconomic disparities drive individuals—particularly women from vulnerable groups—to engage in prostitution as an alternative means of earning income. Low wages and limited access to decent employment opportunities lead some individuals to view prostitution as a shortcut for survival<sup>13</sup>.

Furthermore, social and family factors also play a significant role. An unhealthy family environment, poor parenting patterns, and experiences of domestic violence or abuse can cause individuals to lose emotional stability and seek escape outside the home<sup>14</sup>. Legal factors and law enforcement also reinforce the persistence of prostitution, especially when the enforcement of laws against perpetrators, pimps, and clients does

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<sup>12</sup> Irwansyah, "Penelitian Hukum Pilihan Metode & Praktik Penulisan Artikel" (Yogyakarta: Mirra Buana Media, 2022), 172.

<sup>13</sup> H. Kusmanto, *Sosiologi Kriminal: Teori Dan Aplikasi* (Jakarta: Graha Ilmu, 2016).

<sup>14</sup> W. Sarwono Sarlito, *Psikologi Remaja* (Jakarta: Rajawali Pers, 2011).

not operate effectively. Weak legal sanctions and permissive practices by law enforcement officers pose serious obstacles to the eradication of prostitution<sup>15</sup>.

Lastly, psychological factors such as childhood trauma, low self-esteem, and emotional disorders often underlie individuals involved in prostitution. Those who experience psychological pressure and a loss of life purpose tend to fall more easily into deviant behavior, including prostitution. These four factors demonstrate that prostitution is a complex and multidimensional social phenomenon.

**Table 1.** Prostitution Cases in Pohuwato Regency.

No	Year	Number of Cases	Type of Case	Description
1	2022	1 case	Online Prostitution	Occurred in hotels and lodging facilities; 14 women and 5 men were detained
2	2023	2 cases	Prostitution and TIP (Trafficking in Persons)	20 sex workers were detained during a raid; 7 of them were minors, and 1 Trafficking in Persons case was recorded
3	2024	1 case	TIP	Exposed through the MiChat application; the pimp was arrested by the city police
4	2025	2 cases	TIP (Under Investigation)	Still under investigation; occurred in Palopo Village, Marisa District

*Source: Pohuwato Police Department, 2025*

Based on the data presented in Table 1 regarding prostitution cases in Pohuwato Regency, there is a clear fluctuation in the number of cases over the years. In 2022, one case of online prostitution was reported, uncovered through operations conducted in hotels and lodging facilities, involving a total of 14 women and 5 men who were detained. In 2023, there was a significant increase, with two cases recorded—one involving prostitution with 20 women (including 7 minors), and one case of Trafficking in Persons (TIP) related to online prostitution practices.

However, in 2024 the number of cases decreased to only one (1) TIP case that was successfully uncovered by the police. This decline may be attributed to increased preventive and repressive efforts by law enforcement, as well as growing public awareness of the dangers of prostitution. Nevertheless, in 2025 two (2) additional TIP cases were recorded, which—although still under investigation—indicate a potential resurgence of online sexual exploitation crimes. Therefore, despite a brief decline, the overall trend of online and offline prostitution cases in Pohuwato Regency shows a fluctuating pattern and requires sustained attention and coordinated efforts from various stakeholders.

According to Bripka Faisal, Head of the Women and Children Protection Unit (Kanit PPA) and an investigator at the Pohuwato Police Department, in an interview on Tuesday, May 5, 2025, several factors contribute to the occurrence of online prostitution crimes committed by pimps, one of which is economic pressure. Bripka Faisal further explained that one of the reasons victims become involved in prostitution is the desire to maintain a luxurious lifestyle, such as owning and using an iPhone. Many victims feel social pressure and environmental influence to appear similar to others around them who possess branded goods that symbolize a certain social status. This desire then drives them to seek quick ways to earn money in order to meet these

<sup>15</sup> Sudarto, *Hukum Dan Kejahatan* (bandung: Alumni, 2005).

lifestyle demands, even if it means engaging in risky and morally unacceptable activities.

One village official—the head of Palopo Village in Marisa District—stated in an interview conducted on May 8, 2025, that prostitution is a social issue that brings negative impacts to the community. He expressed concern over the serious consequences of this practice, especially the spread of infectious diseases. According to him, the main factors driving individuals into prostitution are poverty and the lack of religious education. Some community members admitted that they were aware of prostitution occurring in their surroundings but lacked detailed information regarding the methods and individuals involved. Several respondents also expressed concern over the increasing influence of social media on youth and the potential for young people to become entangled in trafficking networks.

In the interview conducted, one of the victims admitted that she was forced into prostitution due to severe economic pressure. The victim, a 31-year-old widow, is responsible for supporting her two children on her own. She struggled to find stable employment, while daily living expenses and her children's educational needs continued to increase. In a situation of desperation and without family support, she ultimately chose prostitution as the only quick way to earn an income.

The victim stated that the decision was not easy and often left her feeling humiliated and guilty, especially when looking at her children. She expressed hope that one day she could leave this cycle and obtain a more dignified job. This case illustrates that pressing economic hardships—combined with the lack of social protection for women who are heads of households—are major factors driving individuals into prostitution out of necessity rather than choice.

### **Law Enforcement Efforts in Combating Prostitution in Pohuwato Regency**

Law enforcement, in simple terms, can be understood as a process aimed at realizing the objectives of the law within real-life situations<sup>16</sup>. These legal objectives refer to the intentions of the legislative institutions that formulate laws and regulations. The way lawmakers conceptualize and draft these rules also influences how law enforcement is carried out. Another perspective states that law enforcement is a series of efforts to ensure that legal norms are truly implemented and function as guidelines for behavior in social interactions and legal relations within society and the state.

Law enforcement in a broad sense includes the implementation and application of legal rules to any form of violation or misconduct committed by a legal subject. Meanwhile, in a narrower sense, law enforcement refers to repressive actions taken against violations or deviations from statutory regulations<sup>17</sup>. Its implementation is carried out gradually by considering various elements to ensure that the legal measures taken remain within the correct legal framework.

Law enforcement can also be understood as the entire set of rules or norms that govern collective life. All provisions regulating behavior in social life may be enforced through the imposition of sanctions<sup>18</sup>.

Efforts to enforce the law concerning prostitution require cooperation among the community, law enforcement authorities, and the government.

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<sup>16</sup> Satjipto Rahardjo, *Masalah Penegakan Hukum* (Bandung: Sinar Baru, 1983).

<sup>17</sup> Sabian Usman, *Menuju Penegakan Hukum Yang Responsif* (Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar, 2008).

<sup>18</sup> Sutrisno dan Wiwin Yulianingsih, *Etika Profesi Hukum* (Yogyakarta: C.V Andi, 2016).

1. **The Role of the Community** The community plays an essential role in creating a safe and moral environment, starting from the family to the broader social sphere. One form of community involvement is reporting prostitution activities to the authorities. In addition, the community can instill moral and religious values in younger generations to prevent them from engaging in deviant behavior. The community may also support the social rehabilitation process by offering assistance and opportunities for victims of prostitution to rebuild their lives.
2. **The Role of Law Enforcement** Law enforcement authorities, such as the police, prosecutors, and judges, have a primary role in taking action against prostitution practices. They are responsible for prosecuting offenders, pimps, and prostitution networks in accordance with applicable laws. Law enforcement must be carried out professionally, fairly, and without discrimination, including ensuring legal protection for victims—particularly those who are victims of human trafficking or sexual exploitation. Furthermore, law enforcement officers must establish strong coordination with social institutions and government agencies to ensure that handling efforts are comprehensive and effective.
3. **The Role of the Government** The government holds a significant responsibility in formulating regulations and policies that support the eradication of prostitution. One crucial measure is to develop and enforce strict laws relating to prostitution and victim protection. The government must also provide economic empowerment programs and skills training for vulnerable groups to prevent them from becoming involved in prostitution. Additionally, the government should carry out educational campaigns and provide rehabilitation facilities and social reintegration programs for victims. With strong policy support, the government's role becomes a fundamental pillar in creating long-term solutions to prostitution

Based on an interview conducted on May 5, 2025, Bripka Faisal explained that efforts to combat prostitution have not yet been fully optimal. Nevertheless, he emphasized that several concrete steps have been taken by the Pohuwato Police. One of these is establishing cooperation with stakeholders at the sub-district level as a form of coordination in detecting and addressing prostitution practices. The following outlines the efforts undertaken by the Pohuwato Police to combat prostitution:

1. **Pre-emptive Efforts** Pre-emptive efforts refer to the initial steps taken by law enforcement to prevent criminal acts before they occur. These actions are part of a crime-prevention strategy aimed at instilling positive values and norms so that they become ingrained in an individual's character. Even when opportunities for committing crimes exist, individuals with strong internalized values will not develop the intention to commit such acts. Therefore, pre-emptive efforts focus on eliminating the element of intent, even if opportunities are present. This approach is based on the NKK theory, which states that *intention plus opportunity results in crime*. The Pohuwato Police have implemented several pre-emptive activities, including:

- a) Conducting public awareness campaigns in each sub-district to educate the community about the dangers of prostitution and its legal and social consequences
  - b) Providing guidance to vulnerable groups in collaboration with the Social Affairs Office and community organizations.
2. Preventive Efforts Preventive efforts involve proactive measures taken to ensure that prostitution does not occur within the Pohuwato Regency. The Pohuwato Police work closely with various stakeholders at the sub-district level to conduct educational campaigns on the prevention and handling of prostitution cases. Preventive efforts are actions carried out by the police to stop criminal activities from occurring. Unlike pre-emptive measures, preventive actions rely on institutional initiatives but do not always need to be implemented exclusively by the police. Families and communities also play an important role in prevention.

Preventive efforts do not involve the use of criminal sanctions; instead, they focus on mobilizing existing community resources to prevent crime. These efforts are integrative in nature and aim to address the root causes of prostitution through community-based prevention strategies.

Through this collaboration, public outreach is carried out comprehensively using educational and persuasive approaches. The Pohuwato Police hope that the involvement of all elements at the sub-district level will strengthen synergy in creating a safe environment free from practices that violate legal and moral norms. In addition, these activities aim to encourage the community to play an active role in reporting indications of prostitution and to support the preventive programs that have been jointly developed.

Besides conducting outreach in every sub-district, the Pohuwato Police also carry out awareness efforts through operations commonly known as “*Operasi Pekat*” (operations targeting social diseases). These operations are conducted based on Article 1 paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), and (5) of the Regulation of the Chief of the Indonesian National Police Number 9 of 2011 concerning the Management of Police Operations and the Authority of Criminal Investigators.

The activities conducted by the police to prevent prostitution include:

- a) The police conduct inspections of boarding houses (*kost*) in Pohuwato Regency that are suspected to be occupied by several commercial sex workers (CSWs).
- b) The police provide legal counseling on the dangers of prostitution-related crimes in communities considered vulnerable to such activities.
- c) The police conduct raids on locations suspected of being prone to prostitution activities, such as inns, mixed-gender boarding houses, and certain hotel areas.

Repressive measures are follow-up actions taken after preventive efforts, not because prevention is ineffective, but because commercial sexual exploitation cannot be eradicated through preventive actions alone. Repressive measures are actions taken to stop or respond to prostitution after it is proven to have occurred. All such actions must be carried out through legal mechanisms. This is in line with Article 1 paragraph (3) of the 1945 Constitution, which explicitly states that Indonesia is a *Rechtsstaat*

(State of Law), meaning that all arrangements in national, societal, and governmental life must be based on applicable laws.

In carrying out repressive efforts related to prostitution, the Pohuwato Police conduct the following actions:

- a) Conducting investigations to identify pimps or intermediaries suspected of exploiting commercial sex workers through prostitution activities.
- b) Carrying out arrests of the identified pimps.

Afterward, the police apply the law through a formal criminal investigation process to gather evidence which can clarify the criminal act and identify the suspect. Once sufficient evidence has been obtained, the case is forwarded to the competent authorities for further legal proceedings

## **Conclusion**

The factors contributing to prostitution in Pohuwato Regency are complex and interrelated, and can generally be classified into internal and external factors. Internal factors include psychological conditions such as frustration, mental disorders, the desire to obtain sexual gratification, and the urge to fulfill a consumptive lifestyle. A lack of religious and moral education also weakens self-control, making individuals more vulnerable to engaging in prostitution. Meanwhile, external factors include poverty, environmental and peer influence, as well as weak family supervision. Technological developments have also expanded the scope of prostitution through online platforms, particularly applications such as MiChat, WhatsApp, and various other social media platforms.

Efforts to combat prostitution are carried out through pre-emptive, preventive, and repressive approaches by law enforcement authorities. Pre-emptive efforts include education, moral development, and increasing public legal awareness. Preventive efforts are implemented through socialization activities, patrols, and raids in areas considered vulnerable. Repressive efforts involve law enforcement actions against perpetrators and pimps based on the provisions of the Criminal Code (KUHP), the Electronic Information and Transactions Law (ITE Law), the Pornography Law, and the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law (TPPO Law). In addition to the role of law enforcement, active community involvement in reporting, as well as government support through economic empowerment programs and social rehabilitation, is essential to achieving sustainable and comprehensive prostitution mitigation efforts.

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