

# Preventing Children Violence by Writing Child-Friendly News

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**Abstract--***Many cases of children violence in Indonesia have encouraged mass media, especially online media, to aggressively report on these cases. Indonesia Press Council has released Child-Friendly News Guidelines in Reporting of Child's Violence to protect children. This study examined the implementation of Child-Friendly News Guidelines in Tribunnews.com. The research objective was to understand the application of PPRA to news of violence against children in online media. Data were collected through observation, in-depth interviews, and documentation studies. Data analysis was done by filling system, which is grouping data into certain categories and interpreting them by combining certain concepts or theories. The results showed that Tribunnews.com has implemented PPRA. However, in terms of journalism, the news in this media was too short, so it does not deepen the "why" and "how" elements of the child violence incident. The title of the news was not described at the news body; thus it seems that the purpose was just for click bait or for attracting the readers to click the news. It seems that the Tribunnews.com put the violence against children cases as just ordinary case and not serious case that we must fight together, based on how Tribunnews.com presented the news itself.*

**Keywords--***children, child-friendly news guideline, news of children violence*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Mass media has four functions: surveillance, correlation, cultural transmission, and entertaining [1]. Until now all four functions are still relevant. The mass media still exists to find and convey information. It is through media that the public learns about various events in their environment. When in our environment there is a lot of violence against children, then we find out through the mass media. For example, when in Bali in 2015 a girl Angeline (8 years old) was found dead in the backyard of her adopted parents' house, all the mass media vigorously reported the case. Actually, child abuse is not actually a new problem in society, but merely a newly recognized [2].

The mass media reports on child abuse because this case has high news value. According to Bell A., news values include competition, cooptation, prefabrication, and predictability [3]. Violence against children has a high news value, which includes conflicts between perpetrators and victims. It also often includes conflict on sexual related issues, and how those kind of news can attract attention and empathy from readers because children are part of our family. These cases cause feelings of sympathy for many readers [4][5].

In Indonesia, violence against children continues to occur until today. The Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAI) noted that the majority of child violence in Indonesia during January-April 2019 took the form of physical, psychological, and sexual violence. Based on complaints from the public at KPAI, the number of victims of psychological violence and bullying is also still high [6].

Data from the National Commission on Non-Violence against Women (Komnas Perempuan), showed that during 2019 child violence increased to 65% (2,341 cases) compared to 2018 with only 1,417 cases. Incest was the most dominant cases of 770 cases, with sexual violence case: 571 cases, and physical violence cases: 536 cases. This data showed that girls from their early childhood are in an unsafe situation, even by those who closest to them [7].

Regarding child protection, Indonesia refers to first Law No. 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection [8] and Law No. 11 of 2012 concerning the Children's Criminal Justice System (SPPA) [9]. In the SPPA Law, protection of children's identity is becoming increasingly widespread. Children aged 0-18 years, married or not still called a child. Children in the womb and children who have died when related to criminal acts, their identity remains covered. Children are confronted with the law, not only the offender's child, but also the victim's child and the witness's child in a criminal case. Identity is anything that can open up who the child is dealing with the law, besides name, face, place of residence, school, association, as well as the names of parents, brothers, sisters, uncles, teachers, and neighbors or other identities.

In addition, based on the two laws above, the Press Council on February 19, 2019 issued a Child Friendly News Guide (PPRA) which contained 12 points [10]. The point is to protect children by hiding their identity. Journalists must keep the identity of child victims and the child suspected, accused of violating the law. The reporter also have to report factually with sentences narration/visual/video that are positive, empathetic, and or do not make a description/reconstruction of events that are sexual and sadistic.

The increased cases of child abuse, encourages researchers to examine how the mass media report violence against children. Among them Siregar (2016) who examined the Media and Violence against Children in Medan Post Daily, North Sumatra in 2013 [11], found that during the August-December 2013 period there were 17 reports of child abuse. The theme was varied. News about sexual harassment were 11 (64.70%), mistreatment 3

(17.64%), murder 2 (11.76%) and which were unclear because the contents did not match the title (5.88%).

Other researchers Praditama et al. (2016) examined the factors causing violence against children in a number of families in Wonogiri and Solo, Central Java. They found the contributing factors were the inheritance of intergenerational violence, the difficulty of exposing child abuse to the public sphere, and the cultural background of the family that placed children at the bottom [12].

In Malang City, East Java, Andini et al (2019) found that violence consisted of physical, verbal, emotional and sexual violence. The ages of the victims varied from 8 years (14%), 9 years (23%), 10 years (31%), 11 years (21%), 12 years (8%), and 13 years (3%). One of cases showed that the victim was the only child in a family or three siblings. Her mother who does not work experienced stress and that was the cause her to commit child abuse [13].

Another news of child sexual violence in Kompas daily (1 January 2018-28 February 2018) was studied by Hiromi (2019). She found that Kompas daily tended to be dominant in writing news in a straight news style and included many sources so that the news appeared actual. The type of coverage was two-sided so that it is balanced and it used illustration as a complement. In reporting child abuse, Kompas was already quite professional because it complied with the Journalism Code of Ethics, which hid the identity of the victim [14].

Discourse on news of child abuse in Tribunnews.com was also examined by Pranawati in 2018. Researcher found that in writing violence by children, the online media tended to write in the straight news formula. Journalists described about it with the same tone and description of violence as if it was done by adults. Journalists did not trace the background of child, even though the child's behaviors were the result of family parenting. Journalists place victim, his colleagues, and polices in a dominant position compared to child offenders, and journalists identify themselves as victim so that they gave more voices to victim than child of perpetrators [15].

To prevent child abuse, Rahmawati (2015) offered advocative journalism as a solution to the reporting of children who are victims of sexual violence to highligh empathizing with children. With advocative journalism, editors become representatives of specific public interests and view child abuse as an injustice in society [16].

This study examined how the online media Tribunnews.com applied PPRA in reporting violence against children. The novelty of this research is in the object of research. Previous research on child abuse news has only focused more on the application of the Journalistic Code of Ethics and has not reviewed the implementation of the Child- Friendly News Guidelines.

## II RESEARCH METHOD

This research used qualitative approach and it was descriptive in nature. Qualitative research aims to explain the phenomenon as deeply as possible through the data as detailed as possible. Although qualitative research can be the best way to collect and analyze data, researchers must remember that this study has limited interpretation [17].

The object of research was the cyber media Tribunnews.com. This media is under the Kompas Gramedia group which is a huge media group in Indonesia. Tribunnews.com ranked third on the online media rating site, based on Alexa.com. Researchers analyzed the news

that were uploaded during 15 January-15 February 2020. Data were collected by observation, in-depth interviews, and documentation studies. Data analysis was performed using qualitative content analysis.

## III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In a month (January 15-February 15, 2020) Tribunnews.com contains 18 titles. These titles can be categorized into two groups: 11 cases of sexual harassment (61%) and 7 cases of violence (39%). Researchers analyzed each story to see whether it complies with or violates PPRA. The results showed that all child abuse news on Tribunnews.com complied with PPRA. There was no news that reveals the identity of the victim. This means Tribunnews.com reporters understand PPRA rules.

Another finding was Tribunnews.com journalists tended to write the incidence of child violence in the straight news narration with a very short paragraph thus it lacks of detail information related to the case. In journalism the completeness of information is one aspect that must be fulfilled.

Regarding this issue, Priyambodo RH, Antara News Agency Multimedia Ombudsmen explained, Search Engine Optimization (SEO), which became a click bait based, made information governance in the path of journalism carrying an accurate-fast-complete mandate in one story. If not, it can be overcome, among others, by training content managers to be able to manage their websites/pages/social media in a running news or minimal well information. Running news is like running a relay. Therefore, content managers must routinely connect information that has been conveyed so that at the end there is an accurate and complete round-up. This is not later than six hours after the initial information is uploaded [17].

Priyambodo further explained that website managers must also focus in certain articles. If he/she manages too many issues, then there can be confusion. More than 75% of cyber media products are sharing/forward info from other people. It is now commonplace for journalists to cite social media as their sources, even though this kind of news should be in the category of press releases, not as news coverage or reportage [17].

Sulistiyawan, General Manager and Content Manager of Tribunnews.com explained that all journalist of Tribunnews.com who went to the field had received direction on do's and don'ts in writing about child violence. About writing news in a short style he explained that this format was in accordance with the format of digital media [18].

"The incident continues. The readers not only need the speed of the information but also the completeness. Therefore, we continue to update the news and provide the page," Sulistiyawan added [18].

Researchers still founds several news titles that do not match their contents. Titles like this appear to have been made to attract readers to click on the news. There was also some news that replace the term raping with other terms which are actually gender-biased. The choice of terms intended to refine words for immorality can actually be considered a manipulation of facts.

According to Kamsul Hasan, Chair of the Competency of Journalist, Competency Test of Indonesian Journalist Association, the tendency of journalists to make a rather sensational title is a click bait. Click bait is a technique that

entices the reader to create a title that makes people curious, so they want to click on the news [19].

"The case of immorality and child abuse has high news value. Because of that, the editor gave a sensational headline feed, so that people click on the news, at least four times," continued Kamsul.

Kamsul stated click bait being implemented by almost all cyber media. Even though the cyber media should have a legal body hence they can be better at writing, willing to follow the ethics and existing guidelines [19].

"Journalists are free to write about child violence. The condition is that they must understand the Journalistic Code of Ethics, especially Article 5, SPPA and PPRA Law which explains the mechanism for reporting cases of children dealing with laws which all prohibit disclosing children's identities," said Kamsul [19].

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Researchers concluded that Tribunnews.com in reporting child abuse had complied with PPRA. Even so, this media writes news that is very short so that in terms of journalism it is incomplete to provide detail information related to the case. Journalists should write in the form of feature that is more flexible. Journalists should interview victims' families to explore facts about their negligence in protecting children.

Tribunnews.com editors constructed children as very weak creatures through the news narration. Nevertheless, it can be assumed that reporters have not sided with children. This can be seen from the very short news, so that it is only like the statistics of child abuse. Journalists sometimes replaced the term rape with other terms which are actually gender-biased.

By not interviewing adults and significant others around the victim, it seems the reporters favored the adults to not take responsibility for cases that damage their children's future life. As a top-ranked media Tribunnews.com actually has a strategic position in preventing child abuse by writing in-depth news and complete narration, thus they will inspire readers to care about the future of children and being aware of violence against children.

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