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Cyberbullying Against Children: Challenges in Legal Accountability and the Implementation of Restitution Rights

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Abstract

Ideally, the criminal justice system in Indonesia should be able to provide maximum protection for children as victims of cyberbullying, including guaranteeing the right to restitution as part of their recovery process. However, in reality, various obstacles still hinder law enforcement and the implementation of these rights, ranging from weak regulations to the suboptimal performance of law enforcement officers in handling cases involving children. This study aims to analyze the legal accountability challenges faced in prosecuting perpetrators of cyberbullying and to evaluate the implementation of restitution rights for child victims. The research employs a qualitative approach using normative-empirical methods, including literature review, analysis of relevant laws and regulations, and case studies. The findings reveal that legal barriers to addressing cyberbullying remain significant, both in terms of legal substance and enforcement. Furthermore, the restitution rights of child victims have not yet been effectively implemented. Therefore, regulatory reforms and the strengthening of law enforcement mechanisms are urgently needed to ensure comprehensive legal protection for children.

Keywords: Cyberbullying, Children, Restitution Rights.

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Abstrak

Idealnya, sistem hukum pidana di Indonesia mampu memberikan perlindungan maksimal terhadap anak sebagai korban cyberbullying, termasuk menjamin hak restitusi sebagai bagian dari pemulihan. Namun, realitasnya masih ditemukan berbagai kendala dalam penegakan hukum dan implementasi hak tersebut, mulai dari lemahnya regulasi hingga kurang optimalnya aparat penegak hukum dalam menangani kasus-kasus yang melibatkan anak. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis tantangan pertanggungjawaban hukum terhadap pelaku cyberbullying serta mengevaluasi implementasi hak restitusi bagi anak korban. Metode yang digunakan adalah pendekatan kualitatif dengan metode normatif-empiris, melalui studi literatur, analisis peraturan perundang-undangan, dan studi kasus. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa hambatan hukum dalam menangani cyberbullying masih tinggi, baik dari segi substansi hukum maupun pelaksanaannya. Selain itu, hak restitusi bagi anak korban belum diimplementasikan secara efektif. Oleh karena itu, diperlukan perbaikan regulasi dan penguatan mekanisme penegakan hukum untuk mewujudkan perlindungan hukum yang komprehensif bagi anak.

Kata Kunci: *Cyberbullying, Anak, Hak Restitusi.*

Introduction

The development of information and communication technology has transformed the world in various aspects, one of which is the way individuals interact with one another. With the emergence of social media, instant messaging applications, and other online platforms, communication has become easier and without boundaries. However, behind this convenience lies various, more complex social problems, one of which is the phenomenon of cyberbullying. Cyberbullying is a form of bullying or intimidation carried out using digital technology, such as through social media, electronic messages, or other online platforms (Menin et al., 2021). This phenomenon has become a global concern, particularly due to its significant impact on victims, especially children who are vulnerable to the negative influences of the digital world.

Children, as part of the most vulnerable group in society, often become targets of various forms of violence and bullying, including cyberbullying. In the Indonesian context, cases of cyberbullying against children are becoming increasingly prevalent and have emerged as a serious problem that must be addressed immediately. The impacts of cyberbullying on children are not only physical but also psychological. Child victims often experience anxiety, depression, and a significant decrease in self-esteem. In some cases, the psychological effects of cyberbullying may even lead to extreme actions such as suicide (Kurniawan et al., 2024). Therefore, this issue requires serious attention from various parties, including the government, society, and other relevant stakeholders.

Ideally, the state, through its criminal justice system, should be able to provide maximum protection to children who are victims of cyberbullying. In this regard, criminal law should be capable of taking firm action against perpetrators, offering special protection to child victims, and ensuring that victims' rights, including the right to restitution, are properly fulfilled. In addition, society must also have greater awareness of the importance of preventing and addressing cyberbullying cases (Ramdhani & Ufran, 2024). However, in reality, despite the existence of several laws concerning child protection, the implementation of the law in cyberbullying cases still faces many challenges. These include lengthy legal processes, a lack of understanding of cyberbullying within the context of criminal law, and the absence of more specific regulations on cyberbullying—making Indonesia's legal system less effective in providing optimal protection for child victims.

In reality, although some legal measures have been taken to address this issue, in many cases, cyberbullying perpetrators still often avoid proportional sanctions. Moreover, many victims find it difficult to obtain legal protection in accordance with their rights (Kusyandi, 2024). The gap between the ideal expectation of legal protection and the actual situation further worsens the problem. The lack of attention to the right of restitution for victims—an essential part of recovering from the harm they suffered—also exacerbates this condition. In fact, restitution is a crucial right for victims, especially children, to receive compensation for the suffering they endured due to cyberbullying.

The main problem addressed in this study is how legal accountability for cyberbullying perpetrators is applied within Indonesia's criminal justice system, as well as the extent to which the right to restitution for children who are victims of cyberbullying is implemented. Although Indonesia has several regulations governing child protection and acts of bullying, the proper application of the law in the context of cyberbullying against children remains very limited. Moreover, the mechanism for granting restitution to child victims is still far from optimal. This study aims to explore these challenges in greater depth and to find appropriate solutions for dealing with the increasingly concerning issue of cyberbullying.

The objective of this research is to analyze the challenges faced by Indonesia's criminal justice system in holding cyberbullying perpetrators accountable, as well as to evaluate the implementation of the right to restitution for children as victims of cyberbullying. This study also aims to provide recommendations for steps that can be taken to improve Indonesia's legal system in addressing cyberbullying cases, with the hope that the rights of children as victims can be better protected. Therefore, this research is expected to contribute to the development of legal protection for children and to raise awareness of the importance of addressing cyberbullying seriously and promptly.

Literature Review

Research on cyberbullying against children and the accompanying legal issues is not a new topic. Several scholars have already discussed and published works on it using various methods and approaches. Hafizah Syafri, in her work entitled; *"Cyberbullying Terhadap Anak Di Bawah Umur yang Terjadi di Lingkungan*

Sekolah: Perspektif Hukum Pidana Islam", examines the forms of cyberbullying occurring in school environments and reviews them from the perspective of Islamic criminal law. Syafri highlights that Islam strictly prohibits all forms of bullying that harm others, especially children, and emphasizes the importance of preventive measures through Islamic character education. The findings of this study indicate that although not all online bullying can be addressed by positive law, Islamic criminal law has principles that protect the dignity and rights of children (Syafri, 2024). The similarity between Syafri's work and this study lies in the focus on protecting children as victims of cyberbullying. However, the difference is that this study emphasizes national criminal liability and the implementation of restitution rights, whereas Syafri focuses more on the normative Islamic perspective without exploring restitution aspects.

Adi Kusumardi, in his work entitled; "*Teknik Restitusi Dalam Menangani Pelaku Bullying, Perundungan Pada Kurikulum Merdeka*", discusses the educational curriculum approach in addressing bullying, including restitution as one method of conflict resolution. The main focus of this research is how the school environment can serve as a space for recovery and education, not merely punishment. Kusumardi's findings show that restitution in an educational context has long-term effects in building the offender's awareness and the victim's psychological recovery (Kusumardi, 2024). The similarity between Kusumardi's work and this study lies in the attention given to the restitution rights of bullying victims. The difference is that Kusumardi focuses on educational approaches within the national education system, not on formal criminal law, whereas this study emphasizes the importance of restitution within the framework of criminal law against child cyberbullying offenders.

Nabila Ayu Avianingrum, in her work entitled; "*Penanganan Cyberbullying Terhadap Remaja Dalam Perspektif Hukum Siber Di Indonesia: Tinjauan Normatif Yuridis*", examines how Indonesia's cyber law framework addresses cases of cyberbullying against teenagers. This study highlights weak law enforcement against cyberbullying offenders due to the lack of specific regulations and the limited understanding of law enforcement officials regarding the nature of cybercrime. The main finding of this research is that cyber law in Indonesia remains general and has yet to provide optimal protection for teenage victims (Avianingrum, 2024). The similarity with this study lies in the focus on weak regulations and legal protection for cyberbullying victims. However, the difference lies in the victim scope; Avianingrum focuses on teenagers in general, while this study specifically highlights children as the most vulnerable group, and adds an analysis of restitution rights implementation—an aspect not addressed in Avianingrum's work.

Although many studies on cyberbullying have been conducted, most still focus on general aspects such as the normative Islamic perspective, educational strategies, or broad cyber law regulations. However, studies that specifically address cyberbullying against children in the context of national criminal liability and the implementation of restitution rights simultaneously are still very rare. In fact, children as victims have particular vulnerabilities that require stronger legal protection and effective recovery mechanisms. This gap is important to address because restitution is a key element in the victim recovery process, while offender

accountability often does not ensure comprehensive justice for child victims. The novelty of this study lies in its holistic approach, which not only analyzes obstacles in criminal liability for offenders but also deeply evaluates the effectiveness of restitution rights implementation as a form of restorative justice for child victims of cyberbullying in Indonesia.

Research Methodology

This research employs a qualitative method with a normative-empirical approach, aiming to conduct an in-depth analysis of the challenges of criminal liability for perpetrators of cyberbullying and the implementation of restitution rights for child victims (Benuf & Azhar, 2020). The study utilizes secondary data obtained through literature reviews, legislation, and case studies relevant to the issue of cyberbullying. In addition, it examines various expert opinions and previous research findings to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the matter. Data collection techniques were carried out through a literature review summarizing various legal sources and relevant literature, including scientific journals, books, articles, and related legal documents.

Data analysis in this study was conducted using a descriptive-analytical approach to describe and thoroughly analyze existing legal challenges and identify weaknesses in Indonesia's criminal justice system regarding the handling of cyberbullying against children. Furthermore, the research examines the practical implementation of restitution rights for child victims and provides recommendations for better and more effective law enforcement. The results of this analysis are expected to make an important contribution to the development of legal policies that are more adaptive to technological developments and the phenomenon of cyberbullying, as well as to provide maximum protection for children as victims in the context of criminal law.

Cyberbullying: The Dark Side of Digitalization

The digital world has brought extraordinary ease and progress to various aspects of human life. Information and communication technology allows people to share information, learn, and socialize without the limits of space and time. However, behind its many benefits, the digital era also poses major challenges—one of which is the emergence of the cyberbullying phenomenon. This phenomenon has become a serious threat, especially to children, who are active technology users but vulnerable to its negative impacts (Aisyah, 2024). Cyberbullying, or bullying in the virtual world, has raised global concern due to its severely damaging effects—physically, psychologically, and socially—particularly on the younger generation.

Terminologically, cyberbullying refers to acts of harassment or bullying carried out through digital media, such as social media, instant messaging applications, online gaming platforms, or internet forums. Such behavior may include insults, threats, the spread of false information, or the dissemination of embarrassing photos or videos with the intent to demean the victim. Unlike traditional bullying, cyberbullying has a broader and more persistent nature, as the

information disseminated is difficult to erase and can be accessed by a much larger audience (Menin et al., 2021). This creates significantly greater emotional pressure on victims, especially because there is no safe space for them to escape the abuse. The cyberbullying phenomenon began to gain significant attention alongside the increasing access of children and teenagers to technology. In the 1990s, when the internet started to gain popularity, early forms of cyberbullying emerged through email services and instant messaging. As technology advanced, social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok became the primary mediums facilitating such actions. Easy internet access and the anonymity of the online world have worsened the situation, enabling perpetrators to act more freely without fear of being identified or punished (Windarwati et al., 2020). Studies have shown that cases of cyberbullying have risen significantly over the last decade, particularly among children and adolescents.

Children are a group highly vulnerable to becoming victims of cyberbullying. This vulnerability stems from several factors, such as their dependence on technology, their limited understanding of online risks, and their still-developing emotional maturity. Children often lack the skills or courage to report their negative experiences, causing them to internalize pain and trauma silently. In many cases, cyberbullying victims suffer severe psychological stress, including anxiety, depression, and even suicidal thoughts. The situation is further exacerbated by the lack of awareness among parents or educators on how to support children in dealing with cyberbullying. The negative effects of cyberbullying on children extend to various aspects of their lives. Academically, victims often lose focus at school, experience a decline in performance, and may even drop out due to shame or fear. Socially, these children may isolate themselves, lose trust in peers, and feel unsafe in their social environments. In many cases, the trauma from cyberbullying does not only have short-term impacts but also leaves psychological scars that affect them into adulthood (Kurniawan et al., 2024). Therefore, this phenomenon requires serious attention, particularly in the context of child protection.

Governments and international organizations have identified cyberbullying as a form of violence that requires effective preventive and responsive measures. Various policies and regulations have been introduced to protect children from online dangers. In Indonesia, for instance, Law Number 11 of 2008 on Electronic Information and Transactions (UU ITE) includes sanctions for perpetrators who spread harmful content, including cyberbullying acts. However, the implementation of this law often faces challenges due to low public awareness of digital rights and the complexity of reporting procedures. Beyond legal regulations, the roles of parents, teachers, and communities are crucial in preventing and addressing cyberbullying cases. Parents need to enhance their digital literacy to monitor children's online activities, while also teaching internet ethics and the importance of reporting negative experiences. Schools should take proactive steps by providing digital safety education programs and fostering an environment where students feel supported to speak about their experiences (Jerusalem & Hidayati, 2024). Synergy between legal regulations and education will be key to overcoming the harmful impacts of cyberbullying on children.

However, protecting children from cyberbullying requires more than legal and educational interventions—it also demands cultural change in the digital world. All internet users, including children, need to be trained to respect diversity and avoid harmful behavior toward others. Social media platforms, which are often used in cyberbullying cases, also have a moral responsibility to create safer online environments, for instance by enhancing content moderation and simplifying reporting mechanisms. The cyberbullying phenomenon demonstrates that while the digital world offers many benefits, it also has a dark side that requires serious attention. Children, as the future generation, must be protected from this threat to ensure they can grow in a healthy environment—both physically and mentally. Without serious preventive measures, cyberbullying cases will continue to rise, leaving victims with lasting trauma and creating a new cycle of violence in the digital space. Collective efforts from individuals, communities, and the state are essential to ensure that technology becomes a tool for building, not destroying.

Child Cyberbullying: A Legal Liability Review

Cyberbullying has emerged as one of the most significant challenges in the digital era, particularly for vulnerable groups such as children. The rapid advancement of communication and information technology has brought not only positive impacts but also new threats, including bullying carried out through online media. This phenomenon—known as cyberbullying—encompasses various forms of verbal abuse, intimidation, or harassment conducted in cyberspace. Its effects on children are not only physical but also psychological and emotional, making it a critical issue to examine from a legal standpoint. From a legal perspective, cyberbullying is considered a serious offense as it constitutes a violation of human rights, particularly a child's right to feel safe and protected. Indonesia has several legal frameworks in place to address cyberbullying cases, notably Law Number 11 of 2008 on Electronic Information and Transactions (UU ITE) and Law Number 35 of 2014 on Child Protection (Adnan et al., 2024). These regulations provide a legal basis for tackling cybercrimes targeting children while ensuring that perpetrators face consequences.

Child cyberbullying is an especially concerning crime because victims often lack the capacity or courage to defend themselves. Children who experience cyberbullying may suffer deep trauma and are at risk of long-term mental health issues. Under the UU ITE, perpetrators of cyberbullying can face prison sentences and substantial fines. Furthermore, the Child Protection Law emphasizes the need for severe penalties for offenders targeting children, both to deter future crimes and to safeguard other potential victims. Legal protection for children as victims of cyberbullying involves multiple aspects, including prevention, intervention, and rehabilitation. In this context, the government bears the responsibility of ensuring that children are shielded from the negative impacts of the digital world. A child protection-oriented legal approach aims to create a safe environment both physically and digitally. This also includes educating children and parents about the dangers of cyberbullying and ways to protect themselves online (Fanindita & Ansari, 2025). The urgency of legal protection for children who are victims of cyberbullying cannot be overstated. Children are the nation's future generation

and require special attention regarding their safety and well-being. If cyberbullying is not promptly addressed, its effects could spread and disrupt social order. Therefore, effective legal protection must be a priority, involving collaboration among government agencies, educational institutions, and the general public.

Mechanisms for securing legal protection for children who are victims of cyberbullying must be accessible and responsive to victims' needs. This process begins with reporting the incident to relevant authorities, such as the police or child protection agencies. Subsequently, a thorough investigation must be conducted to ensure that the perpetrator is identified and punished in accordance with applicable laws. In addition, victims must receive psychological support and counseling to help them recover from their trauma (Kusumardi, 2024). One of the main challenges in addressing cyberbullying is the low level of public awareness regarding the importance of reporting such cases. Many victims or their parents feel ashamed or afraid to report incidents, resulting in underreporting. To address this, comprehensive educational campaigns are needed to highlight the importance of reporting cyberbullying, from both legal and social perspectives.

Furthermore, law enforcement must be accompanied by a human-centered approach toward victims. In some cases, victims require more than just the punishment of perpetrators—they need emotional recovery and support to return to normal life. Therefore, legal protection mechanisms should be designed with the victim's welfare as the top priority, not solely as a means of penalizing offenders. It is also essential to strengthen existing regulations to make them more relevant to the evolving challenges of the digital world. Laws should be adaptable to accommodate new forms of cyberbullying, including the use of advanced technologies by perpetrators to conceal their identities (Fanindita & Ansari, 2025). Moreover, international cooperation is necessary to address cross-border cyberbullying cases, given the borderless nature of the internet.

The role of society in supporting legal protection for children who are victims of cyberbullying is equally important. Communities should become agents of change by fostering a healthy and respectful digital culture. This can begin with instilling moral values in children from an early age and setting positive examples in social media use (Paramesti et al., 2024). In addition to formal regulations, community-based approaches can also be effective in preventing cyberbullying. For example, mentoring programs between older and younger students in schools can help build a supportive environment and prevent online bullying. This approach combines legal enforcement with preventive efforts through the cultivation of a positive cultural environment.

Child Restitution Rights as Victims of Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is an increasingly alarming phenomenon in today's digital era, especially for children, who are among the most vulnerable groups in facing various online threats. One of the essential forms of legal protection for children who fall victim to cyberbullying is the right to restitution. In criminal law, restitution refers to efforts to provide compensation to victims for the losses they have suffered as a result of criminal acts (Alexandra, 2022). In the context of

children who are victims of cyberbullying, the right to restitution aims to restore their psychological, emotional, and social well-being, which may be disrupted due to digital bullying.

Generally, restitution is the right of crime victims to receive compensation proportionate to the harm they have endured. In cases of cyberbullying against children, the harm is not merely material but is closely linked to psychological aspects that can affect the child's future. Therefore, restitution must include measures to restore the victim's mental condition, such as psychological therapy, counseling, or social reintegration programs that enable the victim to function well in society again. In Indonesia, restitution rights are regulated under several laws, both within child protection frameworks and the general criminal justice system. Law Number 35 of 2014 on Child Protection stipulates that children have the right to be protected from all forms of violence, including violence perpetrated through digital media (Fanindita & Ansari, 2025). In the context of cyberbullying, this encompasses a child's right to recovery, whether through restitution or rehabilitation.

In practice, restitution for children who are victims of cyberbullying under Indonesian criminal law has not yet been fully integrated into law enforcement mechanisms. Although the Child Protection Law provides a legal basis for restoring victims' rights, many cases fail to result in restitution that meets the child's needs. Often, greater emphasis is placed on punishing the perpetrator, while the victim's recovery receives insufficient attention. This reflects a gap in the legal system that must be addressed to provide more comprehensive protection (Herlambang et al., 2025). Furthermore, the process of claiming restitution for child victims of cyberbullying faces various challenges. One major obstacle is the difficulty of proving psychological harm caused by online bullying. Legal proceedings in cyberbullying cases are often lengthy, meaning that child victims may endure prolonged suffering before receiving adequate compensation. Therefore, it is crucial to strengthen the existing legal system to make the restitution process faster and more efficient.

Apart from the Child Protection Law and the ITE Law, Indonesia's Criminal Code (KUHP) also contains provisions on compensation for victims of criminal acts. Article 98 of the KUHP states that any person who becomes a victim of a criminal offense is entitled to compensation for losses resulting from that crime (Najwa, 2024). However, in practice, these provisions are more commonly applied to cases involving physical crimes and are not entirely suited to the more complex nature of cyberbullying cases. One significant form of restitution that can be provided to child victims of cyberbullying is psychological therapy and counseling. The effects of cyberbullying on children are not only short-term but can persist into adulthood, influencing personality development and mental well-being. Therefore, providing compensation in the form of psychological rehabilitation is a crucial component of restitution. The government and relevant institutions must work together to ensure that children who have been victims of cyberbullying receive the support they need to recover.

The restitution process must involve various stakeholders, including the courts, child protection agencies, and legal practitioners. In some cases, the victim's family should also be involved to ensure that the child's rights are well

protected. The legal process should provide victims with easy and transparent access to fair restitution so that children who are victims of cyberbullying do not feel marginalized in the justice system (Takdir & Fitriasih, 2023). Although the right to restitution for child victims of cyberbullying has a strong legal basis, the main challenge lies in its implementation. In many cases, restitution is not carried out effectively, and victims often feel that justice has not been fully served. Therefore, in addition to improving existing regulations, there must be more consistent and serious law enforcement to ensure that the rights of child victims are genuinely upheld.

Moving forward, there is an urgent need for a deeper understanding of the importance of restitution in cyberbullying cases. Restitution is not merely financial compensation—it is also a form of acknowledgment of the psychological and emotional harm suffered by children. Consequently, improving the criminal justice system's ability to provide restitution for child victims of cyberbullying must be an integral part of overall child protection (Nooryanto et al., 2023). It is important to note that restitution is not the only measure in safeguarding children. Legal protection for child victims of cyberbullying must also include preventive measures, such as education and awareness campaigns about the dangers of digital bullying, as well as stricter supervision of children's technology use. Through this comprehensive approach, it is hoped that children's rights will be better protected, and the occurrence of cyberbullying cases will be significantly reduced.

Urgency of Firm Measures

Cyberbullying against children in Indonesia has become an increasingly concerning issue in recent years. The rapid development of information and communication technology has opened up opportunities for bullying behavior through digital platforms. Cyberbullying often takes place in cyberspace, where children become victims of harassment, intimidation, and humiliation carried out anonymously and without the victim's direct awareness. This phenomenon targets not only children who are actively engaged on social media but also those who are new to the online world (Idris & Supandi, 2024). The forms of cyberbullying are varied, ranging from verbal abuse, dissemination of personal photos or videos, to group-based insults. The existence of digital platforms that allow instant and borderless communication has made cyberbullying a real threat to children in Indonesia.

Cases of cyberbullying involving children in Indonesia are increasingly reported in mass media. Most occur on social media and instant messaging apps, where children spend a significant amount of their time. One case that drew public attention involved a child in Central Java who suffered online abuse from peers. Other children have reported being bullied in online group chats, where they were cursed at, insulted, and even threatened (Windarwati et al., 2020). Many victims are unsure of what to do, as the digital world allows perpetrators to hide behind fake identities. This makes handling cyberbullying cases more complex, due to the difficulty of identifying perpetrators and the limited capacity of parents to monitor their children's online interactions.

In some instances, the impact of cyberbullying on children has led to tragic outcomes, including death. Certain cases in Indonesia have shown that online harassment can have fatal consequences. Children targeted by cyberbullying often suffer severe emotional distress, which in some cases drives them to hopelessness and despair. For example, in one high-profile case, a teenager in Jakarta who had been bullied on social media ultimately took their own life. This sparked widespread outrage, as it demonstrated that online bullying not only endangers a child's mental health but can also threaten their life. It serves as a clear warning that more serious and decisive action is needed to address cyberbullying involving children.

The urgency for firm action against cyberbullying is evident, given its harmful effects not only on victims but also on the broader social environment. Quick and effective intervention can help prevent escalation and protect victims from further harm. Therefore, clear and decisive legal measures are needed to address this issue. Weak or delayed law enforcement will only worsen the situation and create the perception that online bullying can occur without consequence (Azzahra & Viena, 2024). The law must move swiftly to safeguard children's rights and deter perpetrators. Speed in handling such cases is crucial to preventing further harm, including prolonged psychological damage to children.

If cyberbullying is not addressed seriously, its impact could be far-reaching and destructive. Victims may experience long-term trauma that affects their social and academic life. Psychological effects such as depression, anxiety, and other mental health disorders can arise as a result of online harassment. Cyberbullying can also damage children's self-esteem and confidence, both essential for their development. In some cases, victims may feel isolated and see no way out of their suffering. Without serious attention and swift action, these effects will worsen, harming both victims and their families.

Criticism of the current legal system is also warranted, given the significant gaps in addressing cyberbullying cases. Many argue that existing laws are not fully effective in tackling online harassment. The penalties imposed on perpetrators often fail to provide a deterrent effect, and prolonged legal proceedings only deepen the victims' suffering (Adnan et al., 2024). Moreover, the anonymity of many perpetrators presents a significant challenge for law enforcement. Society and even legal authorities sometimes lack full understanding of the nature and impact of cyberbullying. This highlights the need for legal reform and improved capacity among law enforcement officials to address such cases more quickly and effectively.

To strengthen law enforcement, several steps should be considered. First, there must be clearer and stricter regulations defining cyberbullying, its actions, and applicable sanctions. This will help eliminate confusion between ordinary online behavior and criminal acts of digital harassment. Second, increasing digital literacy among the public is essential so that people fully understand the dangers of cyberbullying and its impact on victims (Paramesti et al., 2024). The government should collaborate with educational institutions to provide training on internet ethics and reporting mechanisms for online harassment. Additionally, law enforcement officials should receive specialized training to recognize and respond to cyberbullying cases effectively.

Beyond the government and law enforcement, other stakeholders have significant roles in tackling cyberbullying. Parents must supervise their children's use of technology. Education about social media ethics and online safety should start early. Teachers and schools also play a crucial role in helping students understand the dangers of cyberbullying and how to report it. Technology companies and social media platforms must ensure they have fast and efficient mechanisms for handling harassment reports. The mass media also has a responsibility to educate the public about the dangers of cyberbullying and the importance of reporting such incidents.

Social campaigns to raise awareness about the dangers of online bullying should be intensified through television, radio, and online platforms. The public must be encouraged to care for one another, especially children who are victims of cyberbullying, so they can receive timely and appropriate assistance (Nooryanto et al., 2023). This shared responsibility is key to creating a safe digital environment free from bullying. Through cooperation between the government, communities, schools, technology companies, and the media, tackling cyberbullying against children can be more effective. Protecting children from the negative impacts of technology not only provides legal certainty but also ensures they can grow and develop in a safe and healthy environment. Swift and firm measures against cyberbullying are urgently needed to safeguard the future of Indonesia's children from this ever-evolving threat.

Conclusion

The challenges in ensuring legal accountability for cases of cyberbullying involving children are highly complex, given the nature of cyberspace, which allows anonymity and makes it difficult to trace the identity of perpetrators. Current Indonesian law remains limited in its reach when addressing cyberbullying, particularly in providing clear definitions and imposing sanctions that can create a deterrent effect. Furthermore, the legal process often takes a considerable amount of time, while victims—especially children—are left feeling increasingly distressed and psychologically harmed. Therefore, the legal system must be updated with stricter and faster regulations for handling online harassment, alongside strengthening the capacity of law enforcement officials to be more sensitive to cases involving children.

The implementation of restitution rights for children who are victims of cyberbullying is also a crucial step toward delivering more comprehensive justice. Restitution provides victims with the opportunity to receive compensation for the losses they have suffered, whether material or immaterial. In this context, criminal law must ensure the rights of child victims of cyberbullying to obtain recovery, both psychologically and socially. By enforcing restitution rights, victims can feel valued and receive the proper attention they deserve, which also serves to prevent similar acts in the future. Therefore, strengthening restitution mechanisms within Indonesia's criminal justice system is essential to establishing more comprehensive justice for children who are victims of cyberbullying.

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