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**Sexual Crimes Against Minors in Malaysia:
Pornography Addiction on Websites as a Triggering Factor**
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Abstract

The rapid advancement of information technology has created a more open space for accessing information. Various types of information can be obtained without limits. Unfortunately, pornography has also become part of the content easily accessible to minors, influencing deviant behavior. The main objective of this study is to examine the consumption, impact, and influence of visual pornography on sexual crime websites on factors contributing to suicide. This research uses a qualitative approach based on in-depth interviews and literature studies, analyzed using legal sociology theory. Eight female informants living in the Lembah Klang region, Malaysia, were recruited to collect data, supplemented by literature such as journal articles, books, and research reports. This study concluded that inadequate social control over access to pornographic content has contributed to the increase in sexual crimes. Sexual crimes include offenses related to inappropriate sexual behavior such as sodomy, rape, incest, and sexual harassment. An investigation conducted by the Sexual, Women, and Children Investigation Division (D11) of the Criminal Investigation Department, Bukit Aman, revealed that there were 1,299 cases of rape of minors in 2021, increasing to 1,590 cases in 2023. Therefore, sociologically, the lack of control over minors' access to pornographic websites leads to pornography addiction, which triggers a higher tendency towards suicide attempts. Therefore, it is recommended that legal regulations regarding access to pornographic websites be tightened to reduce the occurrence of sexual crimes among minors.

Keywords: Sexual crimes, pornography, deviant behavior, media, legal sociology

Abstrak

Kemajuan pesat teknologi informasi telah menciptakan ruang yang lebih terbuka untuk mengakses informasi. Berbagai jenis informasi dapat diperoleh tanpa batas. Sayangnya, pornografi juga telah menjadi bagian dari konten yang mudah diakses oleh anak di bawah umur yang memengaruhi perilaku menyimpang. Tujuan utama penelitian ini adalah untuk mengkaji konsumsi, dampak dan pengaruh pornografi visual pada situs web kejahatan seksual terhadap faktor-faktor yang berkontribusi pada bunuh diri. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif yang bersumber dari wawancara mendalam dan studi literatur, dianalisis dengan teori sosiologi hukum. Informan perempuan sebanyak delapan orang yang tinggal di wilayah Lembah Klang, Malaysia diperoleh untuk mengumpulkan data ditambah dengan literatur seperti artikel jurnal, buku dan laporan penelitian. Kajian ini menyimpulkan bahwa kontrol sosial yang kurang atas akses terhadap konten pornografi telah berkontribusi pada peningkatan kejahatan seksual. Kejahatan seksual meliputi pelanggaran yang berkaitan dengan perilaku seksual yang tidak pantas seperti sodomi, perkosaan, inses, dan pelecehan seksual. Investigasi yang dilakukan oleh Divisi Investigasi Seksual, Perempuan dan Anak (DII) Departemen Investigasi Kriminal, Bukit Aman mengungkapkan bahwa terdapat 1.299 kasus perkosaan anak di bawah umur pada tahun 2021 yang meningkat menjadi 1.590 kasus pada tahun 2023. Sehingga dengan demikian, secara sosiologis kurangnya kontrol terhadap akses anak di bawah umur terhadap situs web pornografi menyebabkan kecanduan pornografi sehingga memicu kecenderungan yang lebih tinggi terhadap percobaan bunuh diri. Oleh karena itu, disarankan agar peraturan hukum diperketat terkait akses terhadap situs web pornografi untuk mengurangi terjadinya kejahatan seksual di kalangan anak di bawah umur.

Kata Kunci: *Kejahatan seksual, pornografi, perilaku menyimpang, media, sosiologi hukum*

Introduction

The rapid advancement of information technology has created more open access to information without boundaries. This technological progress has benefited school students or minors for broader learning purposes. However, the use of mass media as an agent of socialization among minors has opened up opportunities for them to access prohibited websites such as pornographic films, images and videos without parental supervision.¹ Technological developments, a logical consequence of social change, coupled with lax parental supervision, have led to the rise of crimes and sexual abuse against minors. These are deliberate acts that violate the law and the normal moral and physical development of minors, who are individuals who have

¹ Raihanah Abdullah and Nahid Ferdousi, "Child Protection and Juvenile Justice: Legal Issues in Bangladesh and Malaysia. (2024). *UUM Journal of Legal Studies* 15, No. 2 (2024), p. 529-557. Deni Setiawan, et.al., "Law Enforcement of Sexual Violence on Social Media: An Islamic Restorative Justice Perspective, *De Jure: Jurnal Hukum dan Syariah* 17, No. 1 (2025).

not reached adulthood and are protected by state law. Criminal sexual abuse of minors constitutes a public danger of the highest degree, manifested not only in the danger of the act itself but also in its consequences.²

Minors are a vulnerable group due to their age and high activity in the digital environment, requiring a comprehensive analysis of legal regulations and law enforcement practices. Information and telecommunications networks are considered both objects of legal regulation and a means of committing crimes against minors. Information and telecommunications networks influence minors socially and psychologically, manipulate them, involve them in illegal activities, and disseminate harmful content. Digital footprints are crucial in investigating these crimes, and their effective use requires improved technical and legal mechanisms. Therefore, serious efforts are needed to unify legislative norms, expand the list of crimes, and create specialized investigative units. Furthermore, preventive efforts aimed at developing media literacy and digital safety among minors need to be continuously intensified.³

Threats to minors occur in almost all regions of the world, especially in developed and developing countries such as the United States, England, Russia, Japan, South Korea, India, Indonesia and Malaysia. According to a study conducted by Malaysian Against Pornography (MAP), around 80 percent of children aged 10 to 17 intentionally watched pornography in 2018. Additionally, a study by Zohor, et. al., found that 75 percent of Malaysian minors had watched videos or viewed pornographic images.⁴ Furthermore, exposure to pornography can lead minors to engage in sexual crimes, as those under 18 have a high level of curiosity and desire to experiment, which contributes to moral decline among minors.⁵

Sexual crimes include offenses related to sexual misconduct such as sodomy, rape, incest and sexual harassment. Moreover, underage sexual activity is also considered a sexual crime, known as statutory rape, where the element of consent from the girl is not legally recognized in Malaysia. This is because minors tend to act without considering the consequences and are easily influenced by actions that violate social norms or exhibit deviant behavior. Investigations conducted by the Sexual, Women, and Children Investigation Division (D11) of the Criminal Investigation Department, Bukit Aman, revealed that there were 1,299 cases of statutory rape in 2021, increasing to 1,388 cases in 2022 and 1,590 cases in 2023. Group rape cases followed a similar trend, with 61 cases in 2021, rising to 103 cases

² Nazira K. Abdramanova and Esbergen O. Alaukhanov, "Crimes Against the Sexual Inviolability of Minors in The Republic of Kazakhstan and Their Latency," *Vestnik Tomskogo Gosudarstvennogo Universiteta Pravo*, January 2023. Salomat Niyozova, "Reasons for Committing Crimes Against the Sexual Integrity of Minors " *Jurisprudence* 4, No. 4 (2024), p. 140.

³ Anton V. Kurakov, "The Use of Information and Telecommunication Networks in Committing Crimes Against Minors," *Oeconomia et Jus* (2025).

⁴ Aliffitri Ali Zohor Ali, et al., Internet Pornography Exposures Amongst Young People in Malaysia: A Cross-Sectional Study Looking into the Role of Gender and Perceived Realism Versus the Actual Sexual Activities, National Center for Biotechnology Information, 2021.

⁵ Hasyim Bedu., et.al., Keruntuhan Akhlak dan Gejala Sosial dalam Keluarga: Isu dan Cabaran, *Seminar Kaunseling Keluarga*, 2008.

in 2022 and 104 cases in 2023. Data from the Royal Malaysia Police (PDRM) shows that over 90 percent of rape cases occurred voluntarily while the National Health and Morbidity Survey (NHMS) 2022 reported that 88 percent of minors did not use condoms or any family planning methods, leading to an increase in teenage pregnancies out of wedlock.⁶

Minors involvement in premarital sex has led to the main issue in this study such as the increase in the number of out-of-wedlock or illegitimate births. This is evident when the Ministry of Health Malaysia's 2016 statistics revealed that 3,980 or 28.8 percent of 13,831 minors aged 10 to 19 were pregnant out of wedlock.⁷ Five states recorded the highest teenage pregnancy cases: Sabah (3,084 cases) followed by Sarawak (2,910), Selangor (1,461), Johor (1,319) and Pahang (940 cases). The Family Health Development Division of the Ministry of Health Malaysia also reported that 18,000 pregnant minors sought services at government health clinics annually from 2011 to 2013. Of these, 25 percent (approximately 4,500 cases) involved pregnancies out of wedlock. On average, there are 1,500 cases of teenage pregnancies each month and 50 cases daily nationwide. The Secretary-General of the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, Dr. Rose Lena Lazemi stated that this clearly indicates low awareness of sexual and reproductive health among minors in the country. She also suggested that a lack of sexual knowledge is a major factor in the increasing statistics of rape cases, as reported by PDRM. Moreover, the absence of direct social control leads to deviant behavior or other restraints on such actions.

Underage pregnant minors are often accused and labeled with various negative stereotypes, stigmatized and discriminated against because they are associated with violating societal norms. These negative views and perceptions pose significant challenges for underage pregnant teens to continue with their lives, making it difficult for them to share their experiences. This situation indicates that an imbalanced social environment can lead to criminal behavior among minors and subsequently suicidal tendencies. Therefore, this study aims to: i) identify visual pornography consumption on pornographic websites, ii) analyze the visual impact of pornography that leads to sexual crimes and iii) reassess the effect of sexual crimes on factors contributing to suicide.

This study employs a qualitative approach, employing in-depth interviews and a literature review, analyzed using sociological legal theory. Sociological legal theory serves to empirically analyze the reciprocal relationship between law and

⁶Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia, Laporan Tahunan Kementerian Kesihatan, Retrieved from 18 April 2022, www.moh.gov.my, 2018.

⁷Noraffy Ahmad and Nasrudin Subhi, "Meneroka Faktor Resilien dalam Kalangan Remaja Hamil tanpa nikah yang tinggal di Pusat Perlindungan," *Jurnal Psikologi Malaysia* 34, No. 2 (2020), p. 168-183.

society and explain how law operates as a tool of social control.⁸ This theory helps explain why certain legal practices occur and their impact on social change, in this case pornography on websites and sexual crimes. This study examines pregnant minors who are often accused and labeled with various negative stereotypes, stigmatized, and discriminated against for violating societal norms. These negative views and perceptions pose significant challenges for underage pregnant teens to continue with their lives, making it difficult for them to share their experiences. This situation indicates that an imbalanced social environment can lead to criminal behavior among minors and subsequently, suicidal tendencies. Therefore, this study aims to: i) identify visual pornography consumption on pornographic websites, ii) analyze the visual impact of pornography that leads to sexual crimes, and iii) reassess the effect of sexual crimes on factors contributing to suicide utilizes two methods: structured interviews and semi-structured interviews. For the structured interviews, the researcher uses this method to obtain accurate information regarding age, education level, marital status, type of occupation, ethnicity and religion. Subsequently, the researcher employs semi-structured interviews, which are flexible and allow the researcher to ask formal questions that have been prepared but also gives the freedom to delve deeper into the informants' answers to the formal questions.

A total of eight (8) informants were selected for interviews for this study. The selection of informants was carried out using the snowball sampling method. This method is used when it is challenging to access subjects with the specified characteristics and criteria.⁹ In short, the study's informants were asked to suggest other informants who fit the criteria established for this research. This method resembles a snowball that grows larger as it rolls through the snow. In this research, the population consists of unmarried pregnant women residing in the Klang Valley area. However, the study sample is composed of females aged 12 to 18 who are still considered adolescents during their pregnancy or when giving birth out of wedlock. The difficulty in obtaining data related to out-of-wedlock pregnancies among underage teenagers is due to the fact that these pregnant minors are often accused and labeled with various negative labels, stigmatized and discriminated against because they are associated with violating societal norms.

Consumption, Impact and Influence of Pornography on Sexual Crimes

The demographic background of the informants in this study includes age at the time of pregnancy, ethnicity, religion, marital status and education level. Complete information about these informants is described below:

⁸ Alfons Bora, *Sociological Theory and Law*, In book: *Sociology of law* (2024). Ioannis Kampourakis, "Empiricism, Constructivism, and Grand Theory in Sociological Approaches to Law: The Case of Transnational Private Regulation," *German Law Journal* 21, No. 7 (2020), p. 1411.

⁹ Mahin Naderifar, et.al., *Snowball Sampling: A Purposeful Method of Sampling in Qualitative Research*, Zahedan University of Medical Sciences, Zahedan, Iran, 2017.

Table 1: Demographic Background of informants with Out-of-Wedlock Pregnancies

Informants	Pregnancy Age	Ethnicity	Religion	Marital Status	Education Level
1	17	Malay	Islam	Single	Secondary School
2	16	Malay	Islam	Single	Bachelor Degree
3	17	Malay	Islam	Married	Secondary School
4	15	Malay	Islam	Married	Secondary School
5	17	Malay	Islam	Single	Diploma
6	17	Indigenous People	Christian	Divorce	Diploma
7	17	Malay	Islam	Married	Secondary School
8	17	Malay	Islam	Single	Bachelor Degree

Table 1 shows the background of eight (8) informants who were interviewed during this study. All informants were between 15 and 17 years old at the time of their unwed pregnancies, which occurred during their teenage years. This age range aligns with records from the World Health Organization (WHO), which states that one of the leading causes of death among individuals aged 15 to 29 are suicide. This indicates that minors aged 14 to 16 have limited maturity and are not able to think long-term. Adolescence is known as a period filled with conflict and rebellion referred to as "storm and stress." This group requires adjustment to all the new changes and roles they are experiencing. In addition to facing new roles, minors also encounter natural sexual changes as minors is the stage of the most active sexual development.¹⁰

Informants have a good educational background and have excelled academically, successfully completing their schooling. There are five (5) informants, namely I1, I3, I4 and I7 who completed their education at the secondary level while two informants, I5 and I6 completed their studies at the Diploma level. Additionally, two (2) informants, I2 and I8 graduated with a Bachelor's degree.

This section discusses three objectives: i) visual pornography consumption on pornographic websites, ii) the visual impact of pornography that leads to sexual crimes and iii) the effect of sexual crimes on factors contributing to suicide.

¹⁰Anna Glasier, et.al., "Sexual and Reproductive Health: A Matter of Life and Death, The Lancet, 2016.

1. The Visual Pornography Consumption on Pornographic Websites

Sexually explicit material (SEM) made available online is convenient and private which has contributed to the rise in pornography consumption in recent years.¹¹ While there is evidence of advantages associated with pornography consumption, the majority of prior research has concentrated on the association between SEM exposure and a range of adverse consequences including unsafe sexual behaviors and sexual dissatisfaction. Sexually explicit material (SEM) made available online is convenient and private which has contributed to the rise in pornography consumption in recent years. Moreover, television programs such as dramas and movies, which are easily available have increasingly featured sexual content ranging from kissing to sexual intercourse since 1997. Depictions of intercourse occur in one out of every ten television programs.¹² As the accessibility of pornographic materials on the internet has increased, many Malaysian minors are easily exposed to explicit content. According to the Fifth Malaysian Population and Family Survey (KPKM 2014), 60.8 percent of Malaysian teenagers have been exposed to sexually explicit content from the internet.

Regarding this issue, an informant explained that:

*“This happened when I started to wonder about what my friends kept talking about regarding pornography. I wanted to know because all my friends knew what porn was, and then whenever these kinds of videos appeared on our apps, laptops or phones, it would make our parents angry. So, from there, I secretly tried to watch it and explored it on Google.”*¹³

According to Informant 8, the desire to learn about pornography arose after hearing friends frequently talk about it and when pornographic videos appeared on apps, laptops or phones, it encouraged the minors to watch them and explore more about pornography through searches on Google. This indicates that peer pressure and easy access to technology play a role in exposing minors to inappropriate content. In a study titled *The Effects of Mass Media and Pornography on Society* conducted by Tony was found that 70 percent of minors aged 15 to 17 accidentally came across pornographic images or videos online.¹⁴ This leads these minors to learn how to access obscene materials online. Moreover, the accessibility to pornography has driven these minors to view it during their free time and when they have excess internet data.

Several informants reported that they now watch it less frequently, only once a week or when needed.

¹¹Kaitlyn Goldsmith, et.al., “Pornography Consumption and its Association with Sexual Concerns and Expectations among Young Men and Women,” *The Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality* 26, No. 2 (2017).

¹²Tony M. *The Effects of Mass Media and Pornography on the Society*, Department of Humanities Africa University, Zimbabwe, 2016.

¹³Interview with (I8), an informant in the Lembah Klang, Malaysia, 2024.

¹⁴Tony M. *The Effects of Mass Media and Pornography on the Society*, Department of Humanities Africa University, Zimbabwe, 2016.

"But back then, I watched it every day when I was alone in my room. Sometimes, I'd stay up until 2 a.m. watching porn."¹⁵

*"Every two days. I couldn't watch every day because the internet data wasn't enough and back then, I didn't have much pocket money. Sometimes, I'd borrow a friend's data just to watch. If there was extra data, I'd watch for a long time."*¹⁶

*"Back then, we didn't have mobile phones, just public phones. We would buy porn tapes and watch them every day with friends after school. We would only go home late at night."*¹⁷

*"I watched on websites but didn't register an account, my friends were the ones who first showed it to me. Since then, I knew about porn and watched a lot of free porn on the internet. I'm not sure how many times but probably around 4 to 5 times a week, not every day. Back then, if you wanted internet, you had to buy a daily pass."*¹⁸

*"At first, my partner talked about it. I could say it was his influence as well. There were many things I didn't know and I learned because he showed me. I rarely watched porn because I was usually with him. He was also the one who started doing those actions with me and I went along with it because I was already aroused."*¹⁹

*"Back in school, it was quite frequent, about twice a week. Now that I'm working, I don't have time to watch pornography. As far as I know, some friends do watch it and become addicted when they watch scenes rated for 18 years and above together."*²⁰

The exposure to pornography among minors is significantly influenced by peer pressure, technological accessibility and social environments. Two factors that contribute to the high frequency of pornography use are the content's addictive qualities and its widespread online marketing, which makes it accessible to a wider audience.²¹ The ease of access to pornographic content via the internet and digital devices encourages frequent viewing, especially during times when individuals are alone or have excess data. Peer influence plays a substantial role with friends introducing pornographic materials, discussing them openly and even sharing internet data for viewing. Additionally, some informants acknowledged that partners or close friends initiated their exposure to pornography which led to increased consumption. The findings suggest that a lack of supervision with the easy

¹⁵Interview with (I1), an informant in the Lembah Klang, Malaysia, 2024.

¹⁶Interview with (I2), an informant in the Lembah Klang, Malaysia, 2024.

¹⁷Interview with (I3), an informant in the Lembah Klang, Malaysia, 2024.

¹⁸Interview with (I6), an informant in the Lembah Klang, Malaysia, 2024.

¹⁹Interview with (I7), an informant in the Lembah Klang, Malaysia, 2024.

²⁰Interview with (I8), an informant in the Lembah Klang, Malaysia, 2024.

²¹Smith S. & LeSueur J., Pornography Use Among Young Adults in the United States, <https://ballardbrief.byu.edu/issue-briefs/pornography-use-among-young-adults-in-the-united-states>, 2023.

availability of technology makes it challenging to prevent minors from accessing inappropriate content. This exposure can become habitual and even lead to addictive behaviours particularly when individuals repeatedly view pornographic content. The increased enjoyment of pornography is linked to a higher potential for resulting sexual concerns since the sexual activities portrayed in the SEM are more likely to represent aspirational goals for sex life.²²

2. The Visual Impact of Pornography That Leads to Sexual Crimes

Pornography addiction refers to individuals who frequently view pornographic images or watch pornographic videos in their daily lives. This addiction can lead to arousal, increasing the sexual desire of those who consume it.²³ Pornography addiction can result in a desire to try what is seen such as engaging in sexual acts to satisfy the urge for sexual behavior. Furthermore, engaging in pornographic activities is considered inappropriate and unacceptable in everyday life as such behavior is not only forbidden from a moral ethical standpoint but also prohibited from a religious perspective. The primary reason for minors engaging in sexual relationships is often due to romantic feelings.²⁴ Moreover, pornography addiction can lead individuals to experiment with sexual relationships, which may ultimately result in unwanted pregnancies. The following are statements from four (4) informants, namely I1, I2, I3, and I5.

The overwhelming desire and curiosity as depicted on porn websites.²⁵ I used to watch porn quite often; I really had that curiosity. Then my boyfriend encouraged me, and I ended up feeling like.²⁶ My boyfriend's persuasion because we watched porn together, made me want to know what it feels like to have sex like in those porn tapes.²⁷ I don't have a specific answer to that. It's just that I got caught up in it when I became addicted to watching porn. When I have a partner, I feel like trying it. Sometimes, feelings of desire or longing for my partner make me want to have sex.²⁸

Based on the interviews, four (4) out of eight informants stated that pornography and curiosity led them to try engaging in sexual relationships. According to Sharif Z. et al., factors that cause minors to get caught up in social issues such as oral sex, teenage pregnancies, baby abandonment, drug addiction and juvenile delinquency stem from the desire to try new things they have never done

²²Goldsmith K., C. R. Dunkley., S. S. Dang & B. B. Gorzalka., Pornography Consumption and its Association with Sexual Concerns and Expectations among Young Men and Women, *The Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality* 2017, 2017.

²³Nur Hikmah Mubarak Ali., et.al., "Pornography Addiction: A Case Study, *International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences*, (2022).

²⁴Mohamad Faizal and Ishak M. Z., *Gejala Hubungan Seks Dalam Kalangan Remaja: Satu Kajian Kes*, Fakulti Psikologi dan Pendidikan, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, 2014.

²⁵Interview with (I1), an informant in the Lembah Klang, Malaysia, 2024.

²⁶Interview with (I2), an informant in the Lembah Klang, Malaysia, 2024.

²⁷Interview with (I3), an informant in the Lembah Klang, Malaysia, 2024.

²⁸Interview with (I5), an informant in the Lembah Klang, Malaysia, 2024.

before.²⁹ At this stage, minors are said to be more interested in exploring and experimenting with sexuality, fantasies and realities in an effort to align them with their identity.³⁰ Moreover, the curiosity to engage in sexual activities as a result of watching pornography has led the informants to develop a strong sexual desire or lust toward their partners. For example, informants mentioned that they engaged in sexual activities every day after trying it for the first time.

In this regard, several informants explained that, "In the past, every day after school, because my partner and I were alone at home. Sometimes he would invite me to an empty room at his workplace. It made us addicted."³¹ When I was in school, I did it almost every day after school. We did it at my bf's house. Sometimes I just come home at night.³² But back then we didn't have mobile phones, but I always listened to my partner talking about obscene things so I imagined what they were saying. When I imagine that thing makes me excited. There is no denying that I know a lot of obscene things from him.³³

*"How I got stuck in this sex relationship was when I was in love with my ex-boyfriend when I was 16 years old. At that time, I was just getting used to the world of romance, and at that time when I was watching a pornographic video I felt aroused and wanted to do it with my ex-boyfriend. I don't know how to describe that feeling, but I really like it and feel like doing it again and again."*³⁴

According to Aziz et al., adolescent girls tend to engage in sexual relationships to gain love and affection from their partners. However, this feeling of love and affection can transform into sexual desire when minors frequently engage in sexual activities with their partners. Additionally, minors believe that the sexual behaviors they engage in do not have any negative effects on them.³⁵ Furthermore, they also think that these sexual behaviors carry no risks for themselves. This leads them to engage in sexual activities repeatedly, indulging their desires without considering the potential consequences they may face later.

3. The Effect of Sexual Crimes on Factors Contributing to Suicide

²⁹Zainuddin Sharif and Mohamad Roslan N, "Faktor-faktor yang Mempengaruhi Remaja Terlibat dalam Masalah Sosial di Sekolah Tunas Bakti, Sungai Lereh, Melaka," *Journal of Education Psychology & Counseling*, (2011).

³⁰Laurence Steinberg, *Age of Opportunity: Lesson from the New Science of Adolescence*, New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014.

³¹Interview with (I2), an informant in the Lembah Klang, Malaysia, 2024.

³²Interview with (I3), an informant in the Lembah Klang, Malaysia, 2024.

³³Interview with (I7), an informant in the Lembah Klang, Malaysia, 2024.

³⁴Interview with (I8), an informant in the Lembah Klang, Malaysia, 2024.

³⁵Syazwana Aziz, et.al., "Faktor Hubungan Seks Luar Nikah dan Kesan Terhadap Emosi: Kajian Kes Dalam Kalangan Remaja Sekolah Tunas Bakti Sungai Lereh, Melaka," *Fakulti Sains Sosial, Kolej Universiti Islam Melaka*, 2016.

The stress faced by the informants can also affect their health and lead to various more complex emotional and physical problems, which not only impact the informants but also those around them. The stress occurs due to factors in their lives such as experiencing significant life changes, lacking control over their life situations and having another responsibilities (Metro Harian, 2021). This is particularly relevant for pregnant adolescents who are confronted with major changes as they have to care for an unplanned child and face the substantial responsibilities of providing for their needs. The stress they experience leads them to disregard societal norms, values and family expectations, prompting them to make decisions that could lead to ending their lives. Therefore, it is evident that adolescents' involvement in premarital sexual relationships has contributed to a tendency toward suicide. The following are the findings obtained from the informants.

“Because at first, I felt very tired of living. Because no one understood at that time. Yes, it was indeed my fault and my partner's fault. But we both want to take responsibility. However, they only look at what has happened. Sometimes I think, why do these people only think about other people's sins? They don't think about their own sins? They stay silent about their own faults. I know a lot of other people's shameful deeds but I'm too lazy to argue and make it bigger. So I feel stressed. It feels like in this world, there is no one who understands me.”³⁶

“His happened because no one understands and tries to understand me. They only know how to judge without hearing the story from both sides. For me, it's unfair because I couldn't provide a better explanation of what happened. They would continue to judge and use harsh words against me. They also kicked me out of the house, even though I was only 16 years old at the time. Since then, I have been living with my best friend and supporting myself until now. Although my dark and bitter story is difficult and different from others, I am still proud of my achievements in academics. This experience did not prevent me from completing my studies even without support from my family and close friends. I have learned many things from this bitter experience.”³⁷

The lack of social support from family, peers and the community has led them to choose to end their lives. Informants begin to think that death is the best way to solve the problems they face. This is because the pain and difficulties they experience during the pregnancy of an out-of-wedlock child are interpreted through their behaviors, words and feelings. Furthermore, a study conducted by Luxton et al., specifically found that the potential influence of exposure to suicidal behavior through the internet and mass media also contributes to the emergence of suicidal thoughts.³⁸

³⁶Interview with (I5), an informant in the Lembah Klang, Malaysia, 2024.

³⁷Interview with (I8), an informant in the Lembah Klang, Malaysia, 2024.

³⁸David D. Luxton, et.al., “Social Media and Suicide: A Public Health Perspective,” *American Journal of Public Health* (2012).

The issue of suicidal tendencies is a social problem that requires attention from all levels of society to reduce this issue. Suicide is the 15th leading cause of death worldwide, representing one person lost to suicide every 40 seconds (WHO 2021). This study focuses on informants aged 15 to 18, which aligns with records from the World Health Organization (WHO) stating that two leading causes of death among those aged 15 to 29 are suicide. Suicide involves suicidal behavior, suicidal ideation, and suicide attempts.³⁹ Suicidal behavior consists of three (3) spectrums: i) suicidal ideation, which refers to thoughts about engaging in behaviors aimed at ending one's life; ii) suicide planning, which refers to an individual's plans to die; and iii) suicide attempts, which involve potential self-harming behavior where there is at least some intention to die with the term "parasuicide" used for unsuccessful suicide attempts.⁴⁰

Society often accuses and labels minors who are pregnancy out-of-wedlock with various negative tags, creating stigma and discriminating against them. Moreover, sexual relations and out-of-wedlock pregnancies are associated with violations of societal norms such as teenage promiscuity, prostitution and so on. These negative views and perceptions pose significant challenges for minors who are pregnancy out-of-wedlock, making it difficult for them to continue their lives and share their experiences. The views, stigma and discrimination they face from society indicate that these minors do not receive the social support they need. Therefore, it is not surprising that these pregnant teenagers may exhibit suicidal behavior tendencies.

Purse indicate that there are two (2) types of suicidal ideation, which are passive and active. Passive suicidal ideation occurs when individuals wish to die or feel that they could die but do not actually have a plan for committing suicide.⁴¹ Active suicidal ideation, on the other hand, involves not only thinking about suicide but also having the intention to commit suicide, including planning how to do so. Below are interviews with informants who indicate that they exhibit suicidal behavior, specifically having passive suicidal ideation.

*"At first, when I found out I was pregnant, I thought about committing suicide. I was afraid my family and boyfriend wouldn't accept it. Then there was also the pressure of facing outsiders. That's why I was hesitant to tell my boyfriend about this, but fortunately, he accepted the child. That's why we got married quickly."*⁴²

³⁹Ame Husna Kamin and Salleh Amat, "Persepsi Kaunselor terhadap Isu berkaitan Bunuh Diri dan Idea Membunuh Diri: Satu Analisa, In: *Conference Proceedings of Social Sciences Postgraduate International Seminar (SSPIS)*. School of Social Sciences, Pulau Pinang, Malaysia (2015).

⁴⁰Matthew K. Nock et.al., "Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour, *Epidemiologic Reviews*, (2008).

⁴¹Marcia Purse, What is Suicidal Ideation, Retrieved from 12 April 2022, <https://www.verywellmind.com/suicidal-ideation-380609>, 2020.

⁴²Interview with (I3), an informant in the Lembah Klang, Malaysia, 2024.

Based on the findings of the study from the interviews conducted, Informant 3 stated that they had the intention to commit suicide after knowing about their pregnancy due to the changes occurring in their physical and emotional state. They were unprepared to face their family and society, as they were unsure of their family's reaction to their out-of-wedlock pregnancy. This statement is supported by Abdul Kadir et al., which found that feelings of loneliness, anxiety or worry significantly increase the risk of having suicidal thoughts.⁴³ According to the Malaysian National Health and Morbidity Survey conducted by the Ministry of Health Malaysia (KKM) in 2008, 1,288 individuals or 6.3 percent of 36,519 respondents reported having suicidal thoughts. These suicidal ideations are not only generalized among pregnant teenagers but can also occur in individuals facing health or mental issues, potentially leading to suicidal behavior.

Furthermore, suicidal planning which refers to an individual's intention to end their life is considered a form of suicidal behavior. Most individuals with suicidal plans create organized strategies to carry out their intentions and often provide signs or signals to family members or treating doctors indicating their desire to commit suicide. Sometimes deceased people write notes or letters to someone important in their life, perhaps to apologize for their actions or to make accusations against that person. The following is a statement from Informant 7 regarding suicidal behavior.

“When I feel stressed about what’s happening. I’ve thought about going to a tall building and jumping off. But then I think about my child. My husband is irresponsible; he works whenever he feels like it. I can’t just leave him to take care of my child if he’s also irresponsible. I don’t know who to talk to. my family doesn’t want me anymore. There’s no one to help me.”⁴⁴

The statement made by Informant 7, it shows that the plan for suicide had been considered for months. Informant plan for suicide, this can be associated with the element of social control commitment. This is because her child represents the most valuable commitment she does not want to let go of, which has led her to think rationally and refrain from engaging in suicidal behavior. Therefore, it can be seen that the higher an individual’s commitment to their family, particularly their child, the lower the tendency to engage in deviant behavior.

The Data and Statistics Fatal Injury Report released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that in 2019, there were 47,511 Americans who died by suicide and an estimated 1.38 million people attempted suicide. For every one suicide case, there are many more cases involving suicide attempts.⁴⁵ Suicide attempts are categorized as deviant behavior because they do not conform to the social norms of a particular social group or society in terms of religion and law. This is because suicide attempts are generally not accepted by any social

⁴³ Nor Ba’yah Abdul Kadir, et.al., “Kadar Prevalens Kemurungan dan Cubaan Bunuh Diri dalam Kalangan Remaja di Malaysia,” *Jurnal Psikologi Malaysia*, 2018.

⁴⁴ Interview with (I7), an informant in the Lembah Klang, Malaysia, 2024.

⁴⁵ Nor Ba’yah Abdul Kadir, et.al., “Kadar Prevalens Kemurungan dan Cubaan Bunuh Diri dalam Kalangan Remaja di Malaysia,” *Jurnal Psikologi Malaysia*, 2018.

group, especially within Malaysian society. The methods of suicide used by men are often more extreme such as hanging compared to women who may resort to cutting their wrists or overdosing on pills. The following are the findings obtained from the informants.

*"Often. I once drank soap water to die quickly. Cutting my wrists is something I've done regularly. But until now, I'm still alive."*⁴⁶

*"I often cut my wrists. I also almost hanged myself from the fan. But when I hear my child crying, whatever I wanted to do just stops. I feel sorry for my child even though he wasn't a child I planned for."*⁴⁷

*"Yes. Because I'm always stressed. Cutting my wrists has become a common thing in the past. I've never tried drinking poison but I once attempted to take 40 Panadol pills at once. I ended up in the hospital because of an overdose."*⁴⁸

*"I once tried to cut my wrists until I was taken to the hospital for treatment."*⁴⁹

This clearly indicates that the effects of social involvement among minors influence the tendency towards suicide. It cannot be denied that the inclination towards suicidal behavior in minors who are pregnancy out-of-wedlock is due to a lack of support from family, peers and society. However, family, peers and society are socialization agents that play a crucial role in providing social support and social control to individuals. Social support is essential for minors who are pregnancy out-of-wedlock because it can enhance psychological and physical well-being, providing strength and self-confidence to persist in fulfilling their responsibilities as young mothers. Failure to obtain social support can lead these minors to feel stressed and result in decisions that are beyond human control and deviate from societal norms and values such as ending their lives. Therefore, it can be concluded that a high level of social control and social support provided by socialization agents such as family, peers, mass media and society will reduce the likelihood of minors engaging in behaviors that violate societal norms and values such as sexual relationships, pregnancy out-of-wedlock and suicide.

Efforts to Protect Minors from Sexual Crimes: A Legal Sociology Perspective

Protecting minors from sexual crimes is a very serious issue, as it concerns not only children but also the future of the nation. When children are psychologically and socially damaged, a lost generation will be created in that country. Therefore, it is also necessary to analyze more deeply about deviant behavior among minors, behavior that violates the norms and values of society such as sexual relations, pregnancy outside marriage, and suicide is caused by social changes caused by several factors. Negative factors unhealthy environment in the family, economic and

⁴⁶Interview with (I1), an informant in the Lembah Klang, Malaysia, 2024.

⁴⁷Interview with (I2), an informant in the Lembah Klang, Malaysia, 2024.

⁴⁸Interview with (I5), an informant in the Lembah Klang, Malaysia, 2024.

⁴⁹Interview with (I8), an informant in the Lembah Klang, Malaysia, 2024.

political instability in society, environment outside the family such as school, neighborhood, small groups), criminogenic areas, and mass media (internet, social networks) on the objective factors of sexual integrity of minors. Likewise, demographic and socio-psychological characteristics, in particular, character, temperament, age, gender, education, health status (disability), legal capacity, as well as the creation of favorable conditions for minors to commit crimes, are listed as subjective factors in the occurrence of sexual crimes against minors.⁵⁰

Furthermore, in the context of legal sociology, the state, as the party with the authority to create legal regulations and protect minors, needs to ensure that the Children's Act 2001 and the Sexual Offenses Against Children Act 2017 protect children. To date, these laws have not fully protected children's online privacy in Malaysia. Therefore, it is recommended that laws be amended or enacted for this purpose. Policymakers are concerned about the advancement of the internet and are spreading the idea of protecting and separating children from the dangers that internet access may pose, including violations of children's online privacy. Children are not aware of their online privacy or do not know how to protect it. For example, several countries have enacted specific laws to protect children's privacy, such as the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) in the United States, or introduced self-regulatory initiatives on children's online privacy, such as in the European Union. Internationally, the Convention on the Rights of the Child was introduced in 1989 by the United Nations to protect children.⁵¹

Meanwhile, in Indonesia, protection for minors continues to be carried out through the implementation of Law Number 11 of 2012 concerning Child Protection. This legal regulation protects children both as perpetrators of crimes and victims of violence. Criminal sanctions and the provision of measures in the form of guidance and education for perpetrators of sexual violence, as well as the implementation of these legal regulations, are essential as guidelines for law enforcement in imposing sanctions and considerations in court. The legal principle in this law adheres to the theory of restorative justice, namely that children who commit sexual violence must be resolved with dignity through guidance and education, so that children's rights are not neglected.⁵²

In addition, the importance of the role of the family in preventing crimes against the sexual integrity and sexual freedom of minors, especially the high incidence of such crimes within the family, which means that important steps need

⁵⁰ Salomat Niyozova, "Reasons for Committing Crimes Against the Sexual Integrity of Minors" *Jurisprudence* 4, No. 4 (2024), p. 140.

⁵¹ Zainal Amin Ayub and Zuryati Mohamed Yusoff, "Right of Online Informational Privacy of Children in Malaysia: A Statutory Perspective," *UUM Journal of Legal Studies*, 9, (2018).

⁵² Nelvitia Purba, et.al., "Double Track System for Child Convictions for Sexual Violence in North Sumatera: Perspective of Restorative Justice," *Samarah: Jurnal Hukum Keluarga dan Hukum Islam* 8, No. 2 (2024). Khoiruddin Nasution and Syamruddin Nasution, "Implementation of Indonesian Islamic Family Law to Guarantee Children's Rights," *al-Jamiah: Journal of Islamic Studies* 59, No. 1 (2021).

to be developed in this area. Identification of unhealthy families and the establishment of continuous public supervision of them, identification of morally unhealthy parents with various behavioral disorders, their upbringing through community influence, and the behavior of parents whose disorders can have a negative impact on their underage children. These steps are important to be taken as a preventive effort and appropriate recommendations to protect the future of underage children.⁵³

The main determining factors for sexual crimes against minors include family education, social environment, the level of legal and moral awareness of minors, and the victimological characteristics of the victim's behavior. Therefore, sexual crimes against children will have a negative impact on psychological and physical development. Therefore, to improve the prevention mechanism for sexual crimes against minors, serious steps are needed to strengthen the protection of children's rights.⁵⁴ These steps are important to take as a preventive measure and provide appropriate recommendations to protect the future of minors.

Conclusion

The rapid advancement of information technology without adequate control has allowed minors to easily access pornographic materials. Exposure to pornography contributes to an increase in sexual crimes including underage rape cases and out-of-wedlock births. The findings of this study also indicate that pornography addiction among minors increases the risk of deviant behavior and the likelihood of committing sexual crimes. Additionally, the study found that the lack of knowledge and awareness about sexual health, as well as the absence of social control over minors behavior are major contributing factors to the rise in sexual crime cases. The data also reveal a significant percentage of rape cases that occurred voluntarily, reflecting weaknesses in education and early prevention regarding safe and ethical sexual relationships. Therefore, this study recommends that laws and regulations concerning access to pornographic websites be tightened and more comprehensive efforts be made to provide effective sexual education to minors in order to reduce the risk of sexual crimes and deviant behavior.

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