

Analysis of Law Enforcement Components in Human Trafficking Cases in Indonesia

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Article	Abstract
<p>How to cite: Noor Rahmad & Annisa Dwi Rahma Septiani, 'Analysis of Law Enforcement Components in Human Trafficking Cases in Indonesia' (2026) Vol. 7 No. 1 Rechtenstudent Journal Sharia Faculty of KH Achmad Siddiq Jember State Islamic University.</p> <p>DOI: 10.35719/rch.v7i1.386</p> <p>Article History: Submitted: 12/01/2026 Reviewed: 16/02/2026 Revised: 15/03/2026 Accepted: 24/003/2026</p> <p>ISSN: 2723-0406 (printed) E-ISSN: 2775-5304 (online)</p>	<p>This study aims to analyze how factors in law enforcement are applied in handling cases of human trafficking in Indonesia. Human trafficking is a highly complex criminal act, as it involves networks that spread across various regions and parties. This makes the effectiveness of law enforcement very important. This study uses a normative-empirical legal method with an approach in the form of a review of legislation and case studies. The data used was obtained through analysis of legal regulations, court decisions, and reports from institutions such as the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection, the Indonesian National Police, and the Indonesian Migrant Workers Protection Agency. The results of the study show that the enforcement of laws against TPPO has not been optimal due to several factors, such as lack of coordination and integrity among law enforcement officials, limited facilities and infrastructure to support investigations, low public awareness of the law, and cultural and social factors that still look down on the role of women and migrant workers. Problems such as corruption, inadequate protection of victims, and a lack of training for officials also exacerbate this situation. The study concludes that effective law enforcement against TPPO can only be achieved through cooperation between legal factors, increased professionalism among officials, and increased institutional and social support for victims.</p> <p>Keywords: <i>Law Enforcement, Human Trafficking, Legal Factors.</i></p> <p>Abstrak Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis bagaimana faktor-faktor dalam penegakan hukum diterapkan dalam penanganan kasus tindak pidana perdagangan orang (TPPO) di Indonesia. TPPO adalah tindakan kriminal yang sangat kompleks, karena melibatkan jaringan yang menyebar ke berbagai wilayah dan berbagai pihak. Hal ini membuat efektivitas penegakan hukum menjadi sangat penting. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode hukum normatif-empiris dengan pendekatan berupa tinjauan peraturan perundang-undangan dan studi kasus. Data yang digunakan diperoleh melalui analisis terhadap aturan hukum, putusan pengadilan, serta laporan dari lembaga seperti Kementerian PPPA, Polri, dan BP2MI. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa penerapan penegakan hukum terhadap TPPO belum berjalan maksimal, karena beberapa faktor, seperti: kurangnya koordinasi dan integritas di antara penegak hukum, keterbatasan sarana dan prasarana yang mendukung penyidikan, rendahnya kesadaran masyarakat terhadap hukum, serta faktor budaya dan sosial yang masih memandang rendah peran perempuan dan pekerja migran. Masalah seperti korupsi, perlindungan korban yang kurang, serta minimnya pelatihan bagi aparat juga memperparah situasi ini. Kesimpulan penelitian menyatakan bahwa efektivitas penegakan hukum TPPO hanya bisa tercapai jika ada kerja sama antar faktor hukum, peningkatan profesionalisme aparat, serta peningkatan dukungan institusional dan sosial terhadap korban.</p>

Introduction

One form of crime involving several countries that continues to grow in Indonesia is human trafficking. The ease of migrating goods, services, capital, and even people from one country to another is a result of globalization. This condition has led to an increase in human trafficking cases. Cases of human trafficking stem from an imbalance in the ratio of women to men, as well as an overwhelming increase in demand for foreign labor.¹ In 2025, the Indonesian National Police's Criminal Investigation Unit recorded that they had handled 609 cases of human trafficking with 1,503 victims and 754 suspects, indicating that this issue is still very serious in Indonesia.

Although the government has made various efforts to enforce the law, there are still many obstacles to its implementation. According to a report by the Indonesian Migrant Workers Union, the criminal justice system in handling human trafficking cases is not yet fully on the side of the victims. Many cases take a long time, are even threatened with expiration, and the implementation of restitution is still less than optimal. Normatively, although Law No. 21 of 2007 on the Eradication of Human Trafficking exists, its implementation remains weak due to a lack of supporting documents, difficulties in proving guilt, and a lack of cooperation between countries.

Furthermore, cultural challenges, including societal normalization of unofficial migrant labor and stigma attached to victims, foster an environment that inhibits reporting and legal recourse. Victims often endure economic dependency and social ostracism, which impedes their willingness to seek help or participate in legal processes. This socio-cultural complexity suggests that combating human trafficking requires not only legal enforcement but also a comprehensive approach encompassing social rehabilitation and public awareness.

In terms of facilities and infrastructure, the existing system for detection, victim tracking, and protection still lacks integration and sufficient resources. The technological gaps and limited inter-agency coordination delay response times and reduce effectiveness, indicating a critical need for modernized, comprehensive systems supported by adequate. Strengthening these structural components is crucial for ensuring timely enforcement actions and robust support for victims.

Overall, human trafficking remains a pressing transnational issue in Indonesia, fueled by economic, social, and legal challenges. The high volume of cases and victims underscores the urgent need for reinforced law enforcement, comprehensive victim support frameworks, and enhanced international cooperation to curtail this enduring menace effectively.

Research Method

This study uses normative and empirical legal methods. The normative legal approach is used to study the laws and regulations governing human trafficking, particularly Law No. 21 of 2007 on the Eradication of Human Trafficking, as well as various implementing regulations and policies in law enforcement. Meanwhile, the empirical approach was used to analyze how the law is applied in the field and how effective its enforcement is, by looking at case data and

¹ A. Wahyurudhanto, "Kerjasama Antar-Negara Dalam Penanganan Tindak Pidana Perdagangan Orang (TPPO) (Studi Kasus Kerjasama Indonesia dan Malaysia)," *Jurnal Ilmu Kepolisian* 13, no. 1 (2019): 16, <https://doi.org/10.35879/jik.v13i1.110>.

reports from institutions such as the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Kemen PPPA), the Criminal Investigation Unit of the Indonesian National Police (Bareskrim Polri), and the Indonesian Migrant Workers Union (SBMI).

The legal materials used include primary materials such as legislation and court decisions, secondary materials such as books, journals, and official reports, and verified media reports. The materials were collected through literature studies and document analysis, then processed using descriptive qualitative methods to explain the effectiveness of TPPO law enforcement based on Soerjono Soekanto's theory of law enforcement factors.

Results and Discussion

Human trafficking is a crime against humanity, as it clearly violates human rights. Some examples of human rights violations include the right to life; the right not to be tortured; the right to liberty and security of person; and the right to equality before the courts and tribunals.²

Globalization has made it easier to ship goods, services, money, and even migrate people from one country to another. This has both positive and negative impacts. One of the negative impacts of globalization is the emergence of crimes that cross national borders, or what is known as transnational crime.³ The origin of this type of crime is economic inequality, with high demand for labor that often comes from abroad.⁴

Based on Law Number 21 of 2007 Article 1 Number 1 concerning the Eradication of Criminal Acts of Trafficking in Persons, "Human Trafficking is the act of recruiting, transporting, harboring, transferring, or receiving a person by means of threats of violence, use of violence, abduction, confinement, fraud, deception, abuse of power or position of vulnerability, debt bondage, or giving payments or benefits, in order to obtain the consent of a person having control over that person, whether within the country or between countries, for the purpose of exploitation or causing the person to be exploited."

Based on Law Number 21 of 2007 Article 1 Number 3 concerning the Eradication of Criminal Acts of Trafficking in Persons, "victims are individuals who suffer psychological, mental, physical, sexual, economic, and/or social harm because of criminal acts of trafficking in persons."

The government has formulated and implemented several legal regulations related to labor migration and human trafficking, with the aim of protecting Indonesian citizens, both men and women. However, the reality shows that these regulations are not yet effective enough in protecting the community, because to date there are still many cases of human trafficking in various regions.

One reason why this happens is because Indonesia is a large country that is often traversed by international shipping routes, and there are still several border points that are not adequately monitored by security forces. This makes it easy for human traffickers, especially those who traffic women and children, to send illegal migrant workers abroad. In fact, most of the victims

² Miriam Budiardjo, *Dasar-Dasar Ilmu Politik*, PT. Gramedia Pustaka Indonesia, Jakarta: 2000. Hlm. 16

³ Chandra Purnama, Windy Dermawan, and Emil Mahyudin, "Sosialisasi Mengenai Perdagangan Manusia (Human Trafficking) Dalam Upaya Pencegahan Tindak Pidana Perdagangan Orang (Tppo) Di Kecamatan Tempuran Kabupaten Karawang," *Kumawula: Jurnal Pengabdian Kepada Masyarakat* 1, no. 2 (2019): 90, <https://doi.org/10.24198/kumawula.v1i2.19794>.

⁴ Okky Cahyo Nugroho, "TANGGUNG JAWAB NEGARA DALAM TINDAK PIDANA PERDAGANGAN ORANG (State's Responsibility in Mitigation of Human Trafficking Crime)," *Jurnal Penelitian Hukum De Jure* 18, no. 4 (2018): 543–59.

are trafficked to nightclubs or brothels. A report from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) shows that 71% of human trafficking victims are young and adult women and children. The report also shows that the purpose of human trafficking is for sexual exploitation, contract marriage, slavery, begging, and the pornography industry.⁵

Law Enforcement Challenges in the Handling of Human Trafficking (TPPO) Cases in Indonesia

Review of Law Enforcement Theory According to Soerjono Soekanto

In measuring the enforceability of a rule, Soerjono Soekanto argues that there are factors that can be used as benchmarks, namely the law itself or legislation. The next factor is the law enforcement agency responsible for drafting and implementing the law. The factors of resources or facilities that support the performance of law enforcement, the community where the law applies and is enforced. The factor of culture as a creation and feeling based on human will in social interaction.⁶

The following are the five factors of Law Enforcement Theory according to Soerjono Soekanto and their explanations:

1) The Legal Factor Itself

The legal factor is the first indicator in the theory proposed by Soerjono Soekanto. The law referred to here is Law Number 21 of 2007 concerning the Eradication of Criminal Acts of Trafficking in Persons. This law was created in response to the increasing number of cases of human trafficking in Indonesia, such as the recruitment, transportation, harboring, transfer, or receipt of a person by means that violate the law for the purpose of exploitation.

The main objective of Law Number 21 of 2007 concerning the Eradication of Criminal Acts of Trafficking in Persons is to protect human rights, especially those of women and children, from practices of human trafficking that demean human dignity. This law provides a comprehensive and integrated legal basis for efforts to combat the growing problem of human trafficking, whether in the form of organized or unorganized criminal networks, at both the national and international levels. In addition, this law aims to prevent and prosecute perpetrators of human trafficking, provide protection to victims through legal and social approaches, and encourage cooperation between countries in handling these crimes.

2) Law Enforcement Factors

According to Soerjono Soekanto's theory, law enforcement is defined as parties involved in the process of creating and implementing regulations, as well as parties that have a position and authority in those regulations. People who fall into the category of law enforcement are parties involved in the creation and implementation of regulations, both practical and non-practical.

3) Facilities and Infrastructure Factors

Without adequate resources and facilities, the law enforcement process will not run optimally. These resources and facilities include various things such as educated and trained personnel, good organization, adequate equipment, sufficient funds, and other things. If one of these things is not fulfilled, then the objectives of law enforcement will not be achieved.⁷

⁵ UNODC report on human trafficking exposes modern form of slavery. Retrieved from <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/global-report-on-trafficking-in-persons.html>

⁶ Soekanto, S. (2007). *Faktor-Faktor Yang Mempengaruhi Penegakan Hukum*. Raja Grafindo Persada, hlm. 5.

⁷ *Ibid.*, hlm.37

Therefore, in dealing with infrastructure and facility issues, the following approach should be taken⁸:

- a. If a facility does not exist, create a new one.
- b. If a facility is damaged or inadequate, repair or rebuild it.
- c. If there is a shortage of facilities, add more.
- d. If a facility is not running smoothly, improve it.
- e. If the facility is outdated or has deteriorated in quality, upgrade or improve it.

4) Social Factors

Law enforcement stems from social factors and aims to achieve peace within society. Therefore, from a certain perspective, society can influence law enforcement.⁹

Soekanto emphasizes that the law cannot stand alone but must interact with society. Therefore, whether society accepts and obeys the law greatly influences the success of law enforcement. If society supports and understands the law, then the law can be better enforced. However, if society is indifferent or even rejects the law, then the law enforcement process will face many difficulties.

Societal factors also include community participation in various aspects of the law, such as reporting illegal acts, supporting government agencies tasked with enforcing the law, and being involved in the legal process in general.

5) Cultural Factors

This factor refers to human creations, inventions, and tastes based on intentions in social life. Culture reflects the values, customs, and mindsets of a society that have developed and been passed down from generation to generation.

In the context of law enforcement, cultural factors play an important role because laws cannot be enforced effectively if they conflict with the cultural values that exist within society. Conversely, laws will be more easily accepted and obeyed if they are in harmony with the local culture. For example, legal norms that conflict with the customs or beliefs of the community tend to face resistance or rejection.

Soekanto emphasizes that law enforcement must take cultural elements into account to be socially acceptable and avoid conflict. Therefore, understanding local culture is important for law enforcement officials in carrying out their duties.

Inconsistency in the Application of the TPPO Law

Court decisions related to human trafficking cases in Indonesia from 2024 to 2025 show inconsistencies in the application of the law, which have an impact on the protection of victims. For example, in one case decided by the Stabat District Court in 2024, the defendant was acquitted even though the public prosecutor had sought a 14-year prison sentence and presented several victims as witnesses. The trial process was repeatedly postponed 13 times and the prosecutor's absence indicated a lack of seriousness in dealing with this TPPO case. The Stabat District Court's SIPP (Integrated Court Case Information System) stated that the total number of trial days was 321. However, based on Supreme Court Circular Letter (SEMA) Number 2 of 2014 concerning the Settlement of Cases in First Instance and Appeal Courts in Four Judicial Environments, it is stipulated that the settlement of cases in the first instance court must be completed within five months at the latest, which is not in accordance with the principle

⁸ *Ibid.*, hlm.44

⁹ *Ibid.*, hlm.45

of contante justitie, or that trials should be conducted quickly, simply, and at low cost, because it does not provide legal certainty for the victims.¹⁰

Furthermore, in 2025 at the Pematang District Court, the defendant was acquitted on the grounds that the elements of exploitation and document falsification were not proven beyond reasonable doubt, even though there were 58 victims in the case. This verdict rejected the charges based on Law Number 21 of 2007 concerning TPPO even though the evidence from the victims was abundant and strong.¹¹

Another case that occurred at the South Jakarta District Court in 2024 showed a sentence that was much lighter than the prosecutor's demand, namely 6 years in prison compared to the demand for 8 years. In addition, the restitution awarded to the victims was far below what was requested, causing disappointment and demonstrating a lack of perspective on victim protection in court decisions.¹²

In contrast, at the Rangkasbitung District Court in 2025, there was a relatively firm verdict against the perpetrator with a prison sentence of 8 years and an obligation to pay restitution of Rp 129 million to the victims. However, this verdict tends to be an exception compared to other lighter decisions or even acquittals.¹³

Overall, court verdicts during this period show significant variation in the application of TPPO law, from the acquittal of defendants on the grounds that the evidence was deemed inconclusive to heavy sentences and appropriate restitution. These differences indicate the need for greater consistency in the application of the law and the training of law enforcement officials to ensure maximum protection for victims of TPPO and the effectiveness of law enforcement in Indonesia.

Legal Factors in Handling Human Trafficking

Substantively quite strict, with criminal penalties ranging from 3 to 15 years imprisonment and significant fines for perpetrators. This law provides a comprehensive framework for the protection of victims and legal action against perpetrators, reflecting Indonesia's commitment to fulfilling its international obligations against human trafficking.¹⁴

However, implementation in the field shows a gap between legal regulations and practice. Various studies and case data show inconsistencies in court decisions, where defendants with strong evidence can be acquitted or receive light sentences, indicating that the effectiveness of criminal penalties is not yet optimal. This gap is also influenced by problems

¹⁰ KontraS. (2024, 12 July). Keadilan dan Restitusi Korban Dipertaruhkan: Putusan Bebas TRP Harus Ditinjau di Tingkat Kasasi!. Retrieved from <https://kontras.org/artikel/keadilan-dan-restitusi-korban-dipertaruhkan-putusan-bebas-trp-harus-ditinjau-di-tingkat-kasasi>

¹¹ SBMI. (2025, 30 August). Terdakwa TPPO Diputus Bebas: Majelis Hakim PN Pematang Mengabaikan Hak Asasi 58 Korban C/AKP Migran. Retrieved from <https://sbmi.or.id/terdakwa-tppo-diputus-bebas-majelis-hakim-pn-pematang-mengabaikan-hak-asasi-58-korban-c-akp-migran/>

¹² SBMI. (2024, 15 April). Korban Kecewa, Pelaku TPPO CPMI Ke Jepang Divonis Lebih Rendah Dari Tuntutan dan Kerugian Korban di PN Jakarta Selatan. Retrieved from <https://sbmi.or.id/korban-kecewa-pelaku-tppo-cpmi-ke-jepang-divonis-lebih-rendah-dari-tuntutan-dan-kerugian-korban-di-pn-jakarta-selatan/>

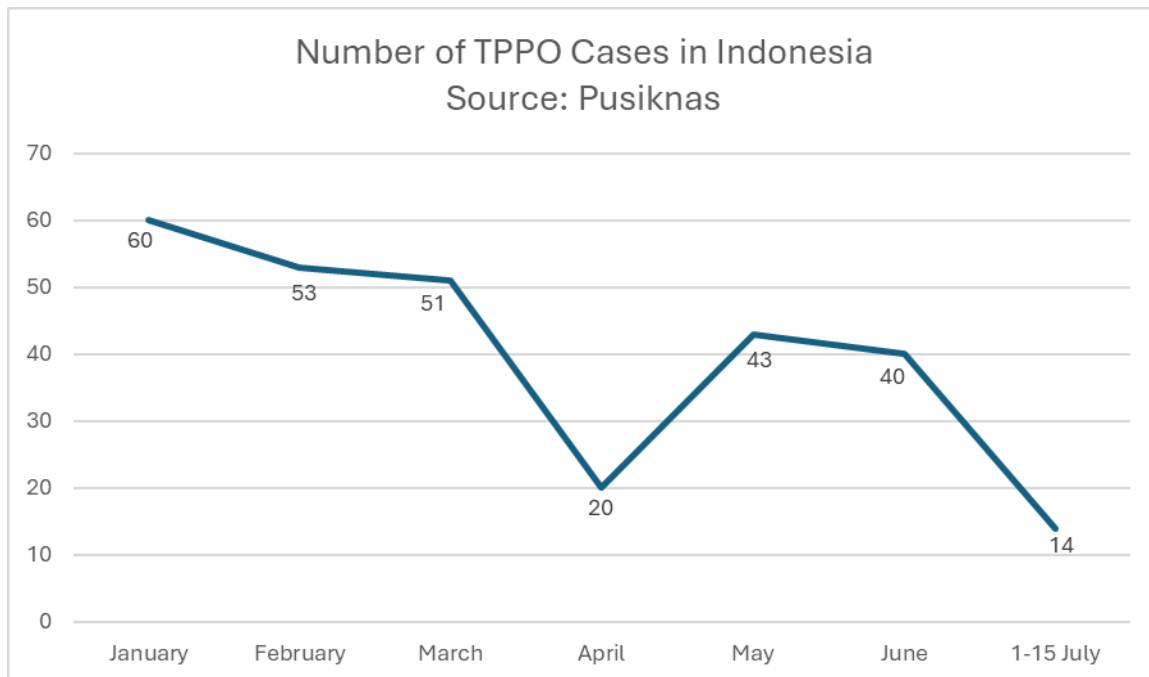
¹³ Rahmawan. (2025, 25 January). Kasus TPPO, Safiq Dihukum 8 Tahun Penjara dan Restitusi Rp 129 Juta. Retrieved from <https://dandapala.com/article/detail/kasus-tppo-safiq-dihukum-8-tahun-penjara-dan-restitusi-rp-129-juta>

¹⁴ Sandra Putri Olivia Lase, Trubus Rahardiansyah, and Maya Indrasti Notoprayitno, "Analisis Hukum Kasus Perdagangan Orang Dan Eksploitasi Ekonomi Di Indonesia," *Locus Journal of Academic Literature Review* 4, no. 3 (2025): 114–25.

within the judicial system, ranging from a lack of evidence of exploitation to minimal restitution to victims.¹⁵

Thus, although the substance of the law on TPPO is quite strong and normative, its effectiveness is still limited due to challenges in its implementation in the field. To achieve the goals of protecting victims and eradicating human trafficking optimally, these challenges need to be addressed comprehensively.

Graph 1.
Number of TPPO Cases in Indonesia



Source: Pusiknas. 14 July 2025.

It is also known that 71.03% of victims are women. There are 29 work units (satker) at the provincial level that handle TPPO cases. The work unit that handles the most TPPO cases is the East Java Regional Police, with 54 victims, followed by the West Java Regional Police with 42 victims, and the Metro Jaya Regional Police with 27 victims.¹⁶

Most victims were students, numbering 95 people, followed by private employees numbering 57 people, and housewives numbering 42 people.

The rate of resolution of TPPO cases in Indonesia is relatively low. Several issues that influence this include weak supervision, minimal coordination between government agencies, and suboptimal protection for victims. The Indonesian Ombudsman considers the government's delay in establishing a National Action Plan (RAN) on TPPO to be maladministration that has worsened the situation. In law enforcement, although many suspects have been prosecuted, the restitution process for victims in court decisions is still far

¹⁵ Johana M. E. Kawenas, Ronny Sepang, and Vicky Taroreh, "KAJIAN TERHADAP TINDAK PIDANA PERDAGANGAN WANITA DAN ANAK DIBAWAH UMUR MENURUT PASAL 297 KUHP," *Jurnal Fakultas Hukum, UNSRAT* 15, no. 4 (2025).

¹⁶ PUSIKNAS. (2025, 14 July) Ditawari Kerja di Arab, WNI Malah Dipekerjakan di Myanmar secara Ilegal. Retrieved from https://pusiknas.polri.go.id/detail_artikel/ditawari_kerja_di_arab_wni_malah_dipekerjakan_di_myanmar_secara_legal

from adequate, with courts often only granting a small portion of the compensation requested by victims.

Law Enforcement Factors in Handling Human Trafficking

Law enforcement factors are one of the key aspects in the effective handling of human trafficking in Indonesia during the 2024-2025 period. The performance of the police, prosecutors, and judges greatly influences the legal process, thereby impacting the outcome of human trafficking cases. A study by the Indonesian Migrant Workers Union (SBMI) noted weaknesses in the criminal justice system that reflect law enforcement officials' neglect of TPPO victims. Slow case handling, insensitivity towards victims, neglect of victim advocates, and intimidation of victims in courtrooms have led to repeated injustices.¹⁷

From the police perspective, despite the formation of a TPPO Task Force and increased enforcement, official data shows that there are still jurisdictions where enforcement is lacking. In addition, several cases have been delayed because the police's capacity to understand TPPO laws is still limited. This has resulted in slow progress in investigations and reduced results in law enforcement.

Prosecutors play a crucial role in prosecuting and ensuring that victims' rights are fulfilled, but according to research, prosecutors' understanding of the characteristics of TPPO crimes and their dynamic modus operandi is still limited. As a result, the indictments in some cases are weak, making it difficult for the courts to impose fair sentences, including in terms of restitution and rehabilitation for victims.¹⁸

Judges, who are the final decision-makers in legal proceedings, often question victims' reports without taking their perspective into consideration, causing victims of human trafficking to experience trauma and feel that they have been treated unfairly. Cases of violence against victims and the lack of compensation in verdicts show that judges still lack sensitivity to the humanitarian aspects of these cases. In addition, training for legal officials, especially police investigators, on human trafficking cases is still very limited or even non-existent in some regions. This limits the ability of investigators to effectively investigate human trafficking cases, especially complex cases involving several countries.

Successful legal compliance is highly dependent on the professionalism and integrity of law enforcement officials. However, in reality, declining professionalism, insufficient capabilities, and a lack of inter-agency cooperation have resulted in many human trafficking cases not being properly resolved. Studies and empirical data show that factors related to law enforcement officials remain a major obstacle in efforts to eradicate human trafficking in Indonesia.

Facilities and Infrastructure Factors in Handling TPPO

According to the Coordinating Ministry for Human Development and Culture, infrastructure and facilities are important factors in supporting the successful handling of TPPO in Indonesia. In terms of budget, the government has established a National Action Plan (RAN)

¹⁷ SBMI. (2025, 29 July). SBMI Luncurkan Laporan: "Suara Korban dan Pendamping dalam Kasus TPPO: Membongkar Realitas Lemahnya Sistem Peradilan Pidana dan Abainya Aparat Penegak Hukum" untuk Memperingati Hari Anti TPPO 2025. <https://sbmi.or.id/sbmi-luncurkan-laporan-suara-korban-dan-pendamping-dalam-kasus-tpo-membongkar-realitas-lemahnya-sistem-peradilan-pidana-dan-abainya-aparat-penegak-hukum-untuk-memperingati-hari-an/>

¹⁸ Dwight Nusawakan and Muhammad Khaidir Kahfi Natsir, "Peran Kejaksaan Republik Indonesia Dalam Penegakan Hukum Terhadap Tindak Pidana Perdagangan Orang Dan Tindak Pidana Dalam Bidang Ketenagakerjaan," *Jurnal Hukum, Politik Dan Ilmu Sosial* 4, no. 1 (2025): 84–96, <https://doi.org/10.55606/jhpis.v4i1.4830>.

for the Handling and Prevention of TPPO until 2024 through Presidential Regulation No. 19 of 2023, which contains targeted policies and programs for victim protection and law enforcement. However, in its implementation, there are still shortcomings, including a lack of data integration between ministries/institutions and suboptimal budget allocation at the regional level, which has resulted in TPPO programs being less than comprehensive.¹⁹

The technology used as support, such as integrated reporting systems and one-stop services for victims of trafficking in persons, is unevenly distributed and often cannot reach areas that are vulnerable to trafficking. This results in longer data collection, protection, and victim handling processes, while also limiting the ability to conduct effective monitoring and prevention. Limitations in digital infrastructure and trained personnel in the field of TPPO handling are also major obstacles in improving rapid response to reports from the community.

Institutions such as the National Agency for the Protection and Handling of TPPO (BNPTPO) still play a role in coordinating between sectors, but limitations in tools, resources, and political support still hinder the optimal functioning of these institutions. For example, BNPTPO often faces difficulties in monitoring and following up on cases at the regional level and in coordinating between agencies. The Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection are also involved in the rehabilitation of victims, but budget and human resource constraints hamper comprehensive handling and the provision of appropriate services.

Facilities and infrastructure are crucial to the successful implementation of the law because they support the performance of law enforcement officials and the effectiveness of law enforcement mechanisms. Shortcomings in terms of budget, technology, and supporting institutions show that without adequate infrastructure support, the law cannot function optimally. Therefore, increasing the budget, developing an integrated information technology system, and strengthening institutional capacity are important steps to support more effective handling of TPPO in Indonesia.

Community Factors in Tackling Human Trafficking

Community factors are very important in tackling human trafficking in Indonesia, especially in relation to community awareness and active participation in preventing and reporting cases. Recent research shows that community awareness of the dangers of human trafficking is still low, mainly because the recruitment methods used by perpetrators are increasingly covert and difficult to detect. Many victims are not even aware that they are involved in human trafficking because they are offered deceptive job offers without any real threats or physical violence, making it difficult for them to report or seek help.

According to Soerjono Soekanto, the community, as a party directly involved in the legal system, has an important role in the successful implementation of the law. Low legal awareness makes the public vulnerable to becoming victims and reluctant to report human trafficking cases due to the social stigma attached to victims. Therefore, improving community-based education and communication, such as through outreach to youth, volunteer groups, and educational institutions, is an important step in strengthening public participation.

In addition, legal counseling activities for prospective migrant workers continue to be carried out so that the community understands the dangers of TPPO, including how to recognize the tactics of perpetrators and the rights that must be protected. This is in line with

¹⁹ KEMENKO PMK. (2023, 07 November). Strategi Pemerintah Dalam Upaya Pencegahan dan Penanganan TPPO. <https://www.kemenkopmk.go.id/strategi-pemerintah-dalam-upaya-pencegahan-dan-penanganan-tpo>

Soekanto's theory that legal understanding among the community can increase their ability to reject and report illegal actions. However, there are still obstacles such as fear, shame, and social pressure that make victims reluctant to report cases to the authorities. Negative stigma against victims of TPPO often worsens their condition, requiring cooperation between the government, communities, and civil society organizations to reduce stigma and provide adequate protection.

Thus, community factors, which include awareness and active participation, greatly influence the success of addressing human trafficking. Strengthening legal education and community empowerment are recommended strategic steps, in line with Soerjono Soekanto's theory that the law is only effective if it has the support and participation of the community as a key component of the legal system.

Cultural Factors in Addressing Human Trafficking

Cultural factors play an important role in shaping how society views the law and the practice of human trafficking in Indonesia. Certain social values, such as tolerance for economic exploitation and a mindset that views migrant workers as part of the risks of life, remain quite strong in some areas. In areas such as Central Java and several coastal regions, people still feel that the harsh working conditions and low wages experienced by migrant workers are reasonable or not particularly objectionable. This leads to weak compliance with TPPO laws.

According to Soerjono Soekanto, social culture and shared values can make laws more effective or weaker. If social norms permit actions that violate the law, then the authorities will find it difficult to enforce the law because the community itself can be used as a justification for such actions. In the context of TPPO, if the community forgives or considers exploitation to be normal, social pressure to stop the practice will decrease. As a result, the authorities will also find it difficult to handle cases optimally.

Furthermore, cultural values that emphasize family honor and shame cause TPPO victims to be reluctant to report or disclose their experiences, thereby hindering legal proceedings and victim protection. According to Rizkan Zulyadi, cultural change through education and public awareness is crucial for social norms to support human rights protection and law enforcement more effectively.²⁰

Therefore, cultural factors such as community values and norms that allow exploitation are a major obstacle to compliance with laws related to human trafficking in Indonesia. Raising legal awareness and changing the way people think through education, socialization, and empowerment are important steps, as stated by Soerjono Soekanto's theory. The goal is for the law to not only be a written rule, but also to be considered a social value that must be followed by everyone.

Policy and Institutional Recommendations for Strengthening TPPO Law Enforcement Effectiveness

Obstacles and Challenges

The main obstacles and challenges in handling human trafficking crimes in Indonesia are very complex and interrelated. One of the most crucial problems is corruption among law

²⁰ Zulyadi, Rizkan. (2025). Retrieved from <https://rizkan.blog.uma.ac.id/2025/06/>

enforcement officials, which leads to impunity for human traffickers. SBMI studies and legal research show that corruption, collusion, and nepotism (KKN) in investigations and trials often allow human traffickers to escape appropriate punishment or receive light sentences. This situation leads to low public trust in the legal system and discourages the reporting of human trafficking cases.

The interaction between these factors further complicates the situation. Cultural factors that still tolerate exploitation and low values of social justice in some communities exacerbate social factors, resulting in low legal awareness and active community participation in reporting human trafficking. A culture of shame and negative stigma towards victims also hinders victims' access to legal and social services. This results in a large number of cases going unreported and perpetrators never being prosecuted, which in turn reinforces their exemption from punishment or loss or evasion of fines.

Limited infrastructure adds to the obstacles, particularly the lack of budget for training officials, victim assistance services, and an integrated reporting system. These limitations result in inefficient legal processes and suboptimal victim services. The lack of inter-agency coordination and minimal information technology for surveillance make monitoring of areas prone to human trafficking less than optimal.

Implications and Recommendations

Findings from the handling of human trafficking cases in Indonesia indicate the need for legal reforms that are more responsive and adaptive to the dynamics of this crime. Reforms should focus on strengthening the capacity and accountability of law enforcement agencies, including intensive training and the implementation of transparent accountability systems to minimize corruption and maladministration. In addition, increased inter-agency cooperation and the application of integrated communication technology will improve coordination and accelerate the law enforcement process.

In practical terms, public awareness campaigns need to be carried out on a mass and continuous basis, with a participatory approach involving various elements of society such as schools and the mass media. Important education about victims' rights and how to report TPPO cases can reduce social stigma and increase community participation in reporting and prevention. This approach is in line with Soerjono Soekanto's concept, which emphasizes that the success of the law is highly dependent on the level of public awareness and participation.

In the digital age, the development of information technology-based facilities and infrastructure is key to supporting efficient and responsive law enforcement. For example, the implementation of case monitoring applications and integrated databases for investigators and prosecutors can accelerate case follow-up, while increasing accuracy and transparency. This is a direct implementation of Soekanto's theory regarding the importance of supporting facilities and infrastructure to realize legal effectiveness.²¹

Conclusion

The effectiveness of law enforcement against human trafficking in Indonesia, based on an analysis of legal factors for the period 2024-2025, has not been maximized and still faces various complex structural obstacles. Although the legal substance, namely Law No. 21 of 2007, is adequate and normatively explicit, its effectiveness is limited by inconsistent court decisions,

²¹ Nugroho, "Tanggung Jawab Negara Dalam Tindak Pidana Perdagangan Orang (State's Responsibility in Mitigation of Human Trafficking Crime)."

in which defendants are often acquitted or receive light sentences, and the implementation of restitution for victims is still less than optimal. The main findings indicate that law enforcement factors are the biggest obstacle.

A lack of professionalism, integrity, and poor coordination among the police, prosecutors, and judges has resulted in slow case handling, maladministration, and even practices of corruption, collusion, and nepotism (KKN) that allow perpetrators to escape appropriate punishment. In addition, factors such as limited budgets for training officials and victim assistance services, as well as the lack of an integrated information technology system, further slow down the response and efficiency of case handling. These obstacles are exacerbated by social and cultural factors, where low legal awareness and negative stigma towards victims, coupled with cultural norms that still tolerate exploitation, cause the public to be reluctant to report cases and hinder comprehensive victim protection. Therefore, the conclusion of this study emphasizes that the effectiveness of TPPO law enforcement can only be achieved through integrated cooperation between legal factors, massive improvements in the professionalism and integrity of officials, and comprehensive institutional and social support for victims.

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