Law Enforcement Strategies of the Sragen Police in Combating Cybercrime Against Children

Viki Andi Prasetyo[1]*, Hanuring Ayu Ardhani Putri[2], & Muhammad Aziz Zaelani[3]

[1,2,3]Universitas Islam Batik Surakarta, Indonesia

Correspondence

Viki Andi Prasetyo, Universitas Islam Batik Surakarta, Indonesia, Jl. Agus Salim No.10, Sondakan, Kec. Laweyan, Kota Surakarta, Jawa Tengah 57147, *e*-mail: vickiandi32@gmail.com

Original Article

Abstract

The rapid development of digital technology has fundamentally transformed patterns of crime against children, thereby necessitating more effective and adaptive prevention strategies by law enforcement agencies. This study is motivated by the increasing vulnerability of children to cyberspace-related crimes and the growing urgency for police institutions to utilize digital platforms as preventive instruments. The objective of this research is to empirically examine the implementation of child crime prevention through digital platforms by the Sragen Police Resort and to analyze the legal, institutional, social, and technological challenges encountered in its execution. This study employs an empirical legal research design with a sociological legal approach, utilizing interviews, observations, and document analysis as primary data collection techniques. The findings indicate that the Sragen Police Resort has implemented preventive measures through social media engagement, cyber patrols, and digitally based public outreach. However, the effectiveness of these initiatives remains constrained by limited digital forensic capacity, inadequate cross-sectoral coordination, and a high incidence of underreporting. This study concludes that strengthening regulatory frameworks, institutional capacity, and inter-agency synergy is a critical prerequisite for enhancing the effectiveness of child crime prevention.

Keywords: *Crime Prevention, Child Cybercrime, Digital Platforms, Law Enforcement, Sragen Police Resort*

Abstrak

Perkembangan teknologi digital telah mengubah pola kejahatan terhadap anak, sehingga menuntut strategi pencegahan yang efektif dari aparat penegak hukum. Penelitian ini dilatarbelakangi oleh meningkatnya risiko kejahatan anak yang berkaitan dengan aktivitas dunia maya serta urgensi pemanfaatan platform digital oleh kepolisian sebagai instrumen preventif. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah mengkaji secara empiris pelaksanaan pencegahan kejahatan anak melalui platform digital oleh Kepolisian Resort Sragen serta menganalisis kendala hukum, institusional, sosial, dan teknologis yang dihadapi dalam implementasinya. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode penelitian hukum empiris dengan pendekatan sosiologi hukum, melalui wawancara, observasi, dan studi dokumen. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa Polres Sragen telah memanfaatkan media sosial, patroli siber, dan sosialiasi berbasis digital sebagai upaya pencegahan, namun efektivitasnya masih dibatasi oleh keterbatasan kapasitas forensik digital, lemahnya koordinasi lintas sektor, dan tingginya fenomena under reporting. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa penguatan kebijakan, kapasitas institusional, dan sinergi antarlembaga merupakan prasyarat penting bagi pencegahan kejahatan anak yang lebih efektif.

Kata kunci: *Pencegahan, Kejahatan Anak, Platform Digital, Polres Sragen*

1. INTRODUCTION

Over the past two decades, the rapid development of digital technology has fundamentally transformed patterns of social interaction, communication, and access to information in global society. Digitalization is no longer a phenomenon limited to adults; it has deeply permeated the everyday lives of children and adolescents. Contemporary children increasingly grow up as digital natives, exposed from an early age to social media, online gaming, content-sharing platforms, and internet-based communication applications. While these developments offer substantial opportunities for educational advancement, creativity, and information literacy, they simultaneously generate new risks, particularly through the heightened potential for crimes involving children as both victims and, in some cases, perpetrators.

The nature of crimes against children has undergone a significant shift, moving from predominantly physical spaces to digital environments that are transnational, anonymous, and difficult to regulate through conventional means. Children constitute a particularly vulnerable group, as they often lack the psychological maturity and cognitive capacity to fully comprehend digital risks, legal boundaries, and the long-term consequences of online interactions.[1] This vulnerability is further intensified by insufficient supervision from parents, educational institutions, and the broader social environment, as well as limited levels of digital literacy in certain communities. Consequently, children are increasingly exposed to various forms of digital crime, including cyberbullying, online sexual exploitation, digital fraud, psychological manipulation, and visual content–based harassment.[2]

Empirical evidence indicates a consistent increase in cybercrime involving children and adolescents, paralleling the rapid expansion of internet and smartphone use in Indonesia. Data from UNICEF demonstrate that children's exposure to digital media has risen significantly, while social and legal protection mechanisms have not fully adapted to the accelerating pace of technological change.[3] The consequences of digital crime extend beyond legal harm, encompassing psychological trauma, disrupted mental development, social stigmatization, and violations of children's constitutionally protected human rights.

Although Indonesia has established a legal framework addressing child protection and information technology, including the Child Protection Law and the Electronic

---

[1] Ariansyah Ariansyah, "Upaya Penanggulangan Kejahatan Perundungan Dunia Maya (Cyber Bullying) Terhadap Anak Dalam Perspektif Hukum Pidana," *Lexlata: Jurnal Ilmiah Ilmu Hukum* 7, no. 2 (2025): 94–112, https://doi.org/10.28946/lexl.v7i2.3819.

[2] Hilman Nur et al., "Perlindungan Anak Dari Eksploitasi Di Dunia Digital: Kajian Terhadap Kejahatan Online (Pasal 761 Jo.Pasal 88 UU No.35 Tahun 2014 Dan UU No 11 Tahun 2008 Tentang ITE)," *Journal Customary Law* 2, no. 3 (2025): 1–13, https://doi.org/10.47134/jcl.v2i3.3925.

[3] United Nations Children's Fund, "The State of Children in Indonesia" (New York, 2020), https://www.unicef.org/indonesia/sites/unicef.org.indonesia/files/2020-06/The-State-of-Children-in-Indonesia-2020.pdf.

Information and Transactions Law, regulatory development has struggled to keep pace with technological innovation. Existing legislation remains limited in providing detailed operational guidance for preventing digital crimes against children, particularly at the level of practical implementation.

This condition highlights the inadequacy of repressive, post hoc legal approaches in addressing the complexity of digital crimes against children. Law enforcement strategies that focus solely on criminalization after an offense has occurred are often insufficient to prevent harm or mitigate long-term impacts on child victims. Accordingly, a paradigm shift toward preventive, risk-reduction–oriented law enforcement is essential. Within this framework, the utilization of digital platforms as preventive tools becomes increasingly strategic.

As the frontline institution of law enforcement, the police play a critical role in translating legal norms into effective social practice within digital spaces. Beyond prosecuting offenders, the police are required to develop adaptive prevention strategies through information technology, including cyber patrols, digital-based public education, social media legal awareness campaigns, and the monitoring of high-risk online activities. Through these measures, law enforcement agencies can contribute directly to the creation of a safer and more protective digital environment for children.

The effectiveness of child crime prevention strategies implemented through digital platforms is significantly shaped by multiple interrelated factors, including community social characteristics, levels of digital literacy, the availability of human and technological resources within police institutions, inter-agency coordination, and community participation. Regional contexts also play a critical role in influencing both crime patterns and law enforcement responses. Sragen Regency, which functions as a buffer zone for Surakarta City, has experienced rapid technological development accompanied by increasing internet access and digital media use among children and adolescents. In the absence of adequate preventive measures, this condition has the potential to exacerbate the risk of digital crimes against children.

The implications of digital technological development for child protection have become a central concern in interdisciplinary scholarship. Numerous studies identify children and adolescents as the most vulnerable groups to digital crime due to limited psychological maturity, low levels of digital literacy, and inadequate supervision. Early research by Lisanawati highlighted the paradoxical nature of digital technology, emphasizing its dual role in providing social benefits while simultaneously generating serious risks for children.[4]

Although Indonesia has established legal instruments addressing child protection and telematics, existing regulations remain insufficient to fully respond to the complex

---

[4] Go Lisanawati, "Cyber Child Sexual Exploitation Dalam Perspektif Perlindungan Atas Kejahatan Siber," *Pandecta Research Law Journal* 8, no. 1 (2013): 1–17, https://doi.org/10.15294/pandecta.v8i1.2348.

dynamics of child exploitation in digital environments, particularly at the level of practical implementation. These findings are reinforced by Ikawati, who demonstrated a strong correlation between uncontrolled social media use and increased juvenile delinquency, while also underscoring the limitations of a predominantly normative legal approach that prioritizes law on the books over law in action.[5]

As cybercrime continues to intensify, scholarly attention has increasingly shifted toward cyberbullying and the protection of child victims. Ariansyah shows that neither the Criminal Code nor the Electronic Information and Transactions Law (UU ITE) provides specific provisions addressing cyberbullying involving child victims, resulting in generalized legal protections with limited deterrent effect. This regulatory gap contributes to a growing disparity between the rising number of cyberbullying complaints and the effectiveness of law enforcement responses.[6] Consistent with these findings, Rovida and Sasmini conclude that repressive, criminal law–based approaches are inherently limited due to their post hoc nature, thereby necessitating the adoption of technology-based preventive strategies (techno-prevention).[7]

At the regional level, Ahmad and Smith conducted a systematic literature review examining legal protections against online sexual exploitation of children and online gender-based violence in Southeast Asia, including Indonesia. Their study found that although legal frameworks in the region are relatively progressive, implementation is constrained by limited technical capacity among law enforcement officials, low public digital literacy, and weak accountability mechanisms for digital platforms. The authors emphasize the need to strengthen the role of law enforcement not only in punitive enforcement but also in technology-driven prevention and public education.[8]

Other studies underscore the contribution of non-state actors and supporting institutions in child protection efforts. Almardiyah demonstrates that an institutional approach through the Integrated Child Social Welfare Center (PKSAI) in Sragen has been effective in safeguarding children's social welfare; however, its focus remains largely social and has yet to specifically address digital crime prevention.[9] Similarly, research on community service programs (Pengabdian kepada Masyarakat) by Aksayeth et al. highlights the importance of personal data security education for students,

5   Linda Ikawati, "Pengaruh Media Sosial Terhadap Tindak Kejahatan Remaja," *Syariati: Jurnal Studi Al-Qur'an Dan Hukum* 4, no. 2 (2018): 223–232, https://doi.org/10.32699/syariati.v4i02.1179.

6   Ariansyah, "Upaya Penanggulangan Kejahatan Perundungan Dunia Maya (Cyber Bullying) Terhadap Anak Dalam Perspektif Hukum Pidana."

7   Khofidhotur Rovida and Sasmini Sasmini, "Konsep Pencegahan Cyberbullying Berbasis Techno Prevention Pada Era Society 5.0 Di Indonesia," *Jurnal Hukum Ius Quia Iustum* 31, no. 2 (2024): 461–485, https://doi.org/10.20885/iustum.vol31.iss2.art10.

8   Dwi Nur Fauziah Ahmad and Nucharee Nuchkoom Smith, "Digital Safety for Women and Children: Legal and Policy Challenges Indonesia, Philippines, and Thailand," *Contemporary Issues on Law Reform in Indonesia and Global Context* 5, no. 4 (2024): 1673–96, https://doi.org/10.15294/jllr.v5i4.16539.

9   Nur Aina Almardiyah, "Peran Pusat Kesejahteraan Sosial Anak Integratif (PKSAI) Terhadap Perlindungan Kesejahteraan Anak Di Kabupaten Sragen: Studi Di PKSAI Sragen" (Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta, 2023), https://eprints.ums.ac.id/112280/.

suggesting that preventive efforts in the digital domain continue to rely predominantly on educational initiatives rather than law enforcement interventions.[10]

From a law enforcement perspective, Primalia argues that combating cybercrime cannot depend solely on conventional policing models but requires a community policing approach adapted to virtual environments. Nevertheless, the study notes that the implementation of virtual community policing in Indonesia remains suboptimal. This observation is particularly relevant to the present research, as it illustrates the structural and cultural challenges faced by police institutions in adapting to the demands of digital-era crime prevention.[11]

Recent scholarship has also explored the role of families and parents as capable guardians in preventing digital crimes against children, particularly in the context of online gaming platforms.[12] While this line of research makes a valuable contribution to understanding parental responsibility, it remains largely confined to normative analysis and has yet to adequately examine the active role of local law enforcement agencies in digital crime prevention.

A critical review of the existing literature reveals a substantial research gap, namely the scarcity of empirical studies that specifically investigate the implementation and challenges of child crime prevention through digital platforms by local police institutions. The majority of prior studies adopt normative or conceptual approaches and provide limited insight into how legal norms are operationalized in practice (law in action). The originality of the present study lies in its empirical examination of the role of the Sragen Police in leveraging digital platforms as preventive tools for addressing child crime, while accounting for the surrounding social context, institutional capacity, and practical challenges encountered in the field. Accordingly, this study aims to:

1) empirically examine the implementation of child crime prevention through the use of digital platforms by the Sragen Police as part of a preventive law enforcement strategy in the digital era; and
2) analyze the legal, institutional, social, and technological obstacles faced by the Sragen Police in implementing digital platform–based child crime prevention, with a view to formulating recommendations for more adaptive and responsive preventive policies and practices.

---

[10] Muhammad Bara Aksayeth et al., "Membangun Kesadaran Keamanan Data Pribadi Di Era Digital," *Jurnal Pengabdian Kepada Masyarakat* 2, no. 5 (2025): 523–527, https://jurnalmahasiswa.com/index.php/appa/article/view/1979.

[11] Jovanka Larasati Primalia, "Pemolisian Ruang Siber (Cyberspace) Melalui Virtual Community Policing Sebagai Bentuk Pencegahan Kejahatan Siber: Studi Kasus Pemolisian Terhadap Kejahatan Siber Di Direktorat Tindak Pidana Siber" (Universitas Indonesia, 2020), https://lib.ui.ac.id/detail?id=20500092&lokasi=lokal.

[12] Nurhikma Resky Rahmadani et al., "Tinjauan Yuridis Tanggung Jawab Orang Tua Dalam Pencegahan Kejahatan Siber Terhadap Anak Di Bawah Umur Dalam Penggunaan Aplikasi Game Roblox," *Al-Zayn: Jurnal Ilmu Sosial & Hukum* 3, no. 6 (2025): 8643–8650, https://doi.org/10.61104/alz.v3i6.2501.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study employs an empirical legal research design with a sociological juridical approach to examine the implementation of child protection norms and digital crime prevention within law enforcement practices, with a particular focus on the Sragen Resort Police. This approach conceptualizes law not merely as a body of written rules (law on the books), but as a set of social practices operating within societal realities (law in action), especially in the context of the rapid expansion of digital platforms.

The research adopts a descriptive-analytical design, systematically documenting digital-based child crime prevention strategies implemented by the Sragen Resort Police while critically analyzing the factors that support or constrain their effectiveness. The study was conducted within the jurisdiction of the Sragen Resort Police, and the research participants included law enforcement officials with direct operational authority, notably personnel from the Women and Children Protection Unit (PPA), the Cyber Unit, and the Community Development Unit (Binmas). These participants were complemented by key informants drawn from relevant community stakeholders.

The data comprise both primary and secondary sources. Primary data were collected through in-depth, semi-structured interviews and non-participant observation of digital-based policing activities. Secondary data were obtained through a comprehensive review of applicable laws and regulations, scholarly literature, and relevant policy documents. Data analysis was conducted qualitatively using a deductive-analytical procedure, encompassing data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. The credibility and validity of the findings were ensured through source and methodological triangulation. This study is confined to the local institutional context of the Sragen Resort Police and does not seek to generate nationally generalizable conclusions.

3. RESEARCH RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Implementation of Child Crime Prevention Through the Use of Digital Platforms by the Sragen Resort Police

This section examines the implementation of child crime prevention through the use of digital platforms by the Sragen Resort Police as part of a preventive law enforcement strategy in the digital era. The analysis focuses on the manner in which normative authority is translated into routine policing practices, the specific forms of digital platform utilization, and their relevance to the protection of children as a vulnerable group in cyberspace.

The findings indicate that the Sragen Resort Police have reoriented their child crime prevention strategy by positioning digital platforms as primary instruments for communication, education, and early detection. This implementation is grounded in the

normative mandate set forth in Article 59 of Law Number 35 of 2014 on Child Protection, which obligates the state and law enforcement agencies to provide special protection for child victims of crime. Within this framework, digital media are not merely treated as auxiliary tools but are operationalized as a core mechanism for fulfilling the statutory obligation to protect children in the digital context.

The Sragen Resort Police employ multiple digital channels, including social media platforms (Instagram and Facebook), an official website, and digital public relations outlets, to disseminate child crime prevention messages. The content primarily focuses on education regarding cyberbullying, ethical social media use, personal data protection, and campaigns encouraging reporting behavior. Informants indicated that this strategy was adopted because digital media constitute the primary interaction space for children and adolescents, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of preventive messages delivered through platforms embedded in their everyday digital experiences.

These findings suggest that the Sragen Resort Police have embraced a digital-era policing paradigm that conceptualizes cyberspace as an integral component of children's social environments. This perspective is consistent with statements by First Brigadier Harry Septyana Herdani, S.H., who emphasized that a digital-based preventive approach has become a strategic necessity in response to the significant shift in youth communication patterns toward online spaces.

Visually oriented content—such as infographics, activity photographs, and short-form videos—elicits greater engagement from students compared to conventional, one-directional outreach methods. The Sragen Resort Police routinely document offline outreach activities conducted in schools and subsequently disseminate this material through social media, thereby generating a multiplier effect that expands the reach and sustainability of prevention efforts.

These empirical findings align with previous studies indicating that interactive and visual digital content is more effective in enhancing cybersecurity awareness among students.[13] Similarly, Aksayeth et al. confirm the strategic role of social media in fostering digital literacy and awareness of personal data protection among adolescents.[14] The preventive practices adopted by the Sragen Resort Police thus demonstrate a strong correspondence between field-level implementation and established academic insights in the domains of digital communication and education.

Moreover, these digital education and awareness campaigns represent a direct operationalization of Article 64A of Law Number 35 of 2014, which extends child protection provisions to encompass online crimes, including cyberbullying and digital exploitation. Accordingly, the dissemination of educational content functions not merely as an informational initiative but as a concrete manifestation of the legal

---

[13]   Giorgia Tempestini et al., "Improving the Cybersecurity Awareness of Young Adults through a Game-Based Informal Learning Strategy," *Information* 15, no. 10 (2024): 1–19, https://doi.org/10.3390/info15100607.

[14]   Aksayeth et al., "Membangun Kesadaran Keamanan Data Pribadi Di Era Digital."

obligations imposed on law enforcement agencies to safeguard children in digital environments.

Importantly, digital prevention initiatives are complemented by offline activities, such as the Child-Friendly Police program, face-to-face counseling sessions in schools, and structured dialogues with teachers and parents. These activities are systematically documented and redistributed through digital platforms, reinforcing their preventive impact over time.

This integrated approach reflects the principles of digital community policing, which emphasize the synergy between direct interpersonal engagement and online dissemination .[15] The findings further corroborate earlier research on the evolution of digitally oriented, community-based policing models[16], as well as studies underscoring the importance of integrating fieldwork with media strategies to strengthen public trust and enhance child protection outcomes.[17]

In addition to internal communication channels, the Sragen Police actively employ public relations mechanisms through press releases, press conferences, and publications in local media. Issues of child protection are frequently framed alongside case disclosures but are consistently accompanied by preventive messaging, thereby encouraging the public to focus not only on repressive enforcement measures but also on vigilance, awareness, and early reporting.

This communication strategy aligns with principles of public awareness in criminology and victimology, as emphasized by Rovida in the context of techno-prevention of cyberbullying.[18] Transparent and open campaigns have been shown to promote behavioral change, increase public willingness to report offenses, and strengthen community participation in the prevention of crimes against children.

The findings further demonstrate structural synergy between the Sragen Police and key stakeholders, including schools, the Regional Education Office, the Office for Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (DP3AKB), and child protection institutions such as the Integrated Child Social Welfare Center (PKSAI) in Sragen.

---

[15] Mark van der Giessen and Petra Saskia Bayerl, "Designing For Successful Online Engagement: Understanding Technological Frames of Citizen and Police Users of Community Policing Platforms," *Government Information Quarterly* 39, no. 3 (2022): 1–13, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.giq.2022.101711; Kukuh S. Kurniawan, "Policing The Digital Realms: Reflection on Community Policing Discourses in the Digital Realms," *International Review of Humanities Studies* 6, no. 2 (2021): 904–17, https://scholarhub.ui.ac.id/irhs/vol6/iss2/22?utm_source=scholarhub.ui.ac.id%2Firhs%2Fvol6%2Fiss2%2F22 &utm_medium=PDF&utm_campaign=PDFCoverPages.

[16] Mila Gustiana Ansary, M. Syukri Akub, and Syamsuddin Muchtar, "Kedudukan Lembaga Perlindungan Saksi Dan Korban Dalam Proses Pemeriksaan Perkara Pidana" (2013), http://repository.unhas.ac.id/8222/2/milagustia-1054-1-13-mila-y 1-2.pdf.

[17] Armunanto Hutahaean and Erlyn Indarti, "Lembaga Penyidik Dalam Sistem Peradilan Pidana Terpadu Di Indonesia," *Jurnal Legislasi Indonesia* 16, no. 1 (2019): 27–41, https://doi.org/10.54629/jli.v16i1.453; Primalia, "Pemolisian Ruang Siber (Cyberspace) Melalui Virtual Community Policing Sebagai Bentuk Pencegahan Kejahatan Siber: Studi Kasus Pemolisian Terhadap Kejahatan Siber Di Direktorat Tindak Pidana Siber."

[18] Rovida and Sasmini, "Konsep Pencegahan Cyberbullying Berbasis Techno Prevention Pada Era Society 5.0 Di Indonesia."

Digital child protection campaigns are frequently aligned with regional programs and national policy frameworks, reflecting an integrated and coordinated approach to child protection.

This result is consistent with prior research highlighting that the effectiveness of child protection initiatives is highly dependent on cross-agency coordination and the integration of legal and social services.[19] In the Sragen context, digital publications issued by the police function as a connective mechanism between institutional practices and broader public awareness.

Beyond educational and awareness-oriented efforts, the study finds that the Sragen Police have proactively conducted cyber patrols through the systematic monitoring of social media content, public online discourse, and potentially risky communication patterns. These activities involve early detection, information verification, and coordination among the Cyber Unit, the Criminal Investigation Unit, and the Women and Children Protection Unit prior to the initiation of further legal action.

This preventive approach is consistent with findings by Rovida and Sasmini, which demonstrate that contemporary crimes against children increasingly leave digital traces, thereby rendering online data monitoring and analysis essential for early detection.[20] From a legal standpoint, cyber patrol activities conducted by the Sragen Police are grounded in the Electronic Information and Transactions Law, particularly Articles 3, 6, and 7, which recognize the evidentiary value of electronic information and emphasize principles of security and protection for technology users.

All preventive and case-handling procedures involving children are conducted within the framework of Law Number 11 of 2012 on the Juvenile Criminal Justice System. The emphasis on cross-unit coordination and non-repressive responses reflects the application of the best interests of the child principle, as mandated by Articles 5 and 18 of the Child Protection legislation.

The findings confirm that the implementation of child crime prevention through digital platforms by the Sragen Police represents not merely a technical innovation but also an adaptive and contextual manifestation of law in action in response to the evolving dynamics of digital crime. These results indicate that integrated, principle-based digital preventive strategies can serve as an effective law enforcement instrument for child protection in the digital era.

3.2. Constraints in Implementing Digital Platform–Based Child Crime Prevention by the Sragen Resort Police

---

[19]   Almardiyah, "Peran Pusat Kesejahteraan Sosial Anak Integratif (PKSAI) Terhadap Perlindungan Kesejahteraan Anak Di Kabupaten Sragen: Studi Di PKSAI Sragen."

[20]   Rovida and Sasmini, "Konsep Pencegahan Cyberbullying Berbasis Techno Prevention Pada Era Society 5.0 Di Indonesia."

This section analyzes the legal, institutional, social, and technological constraints faced by the Sragen Resort Police in implementing child crime prevention through digital platforms. Examining these constraints is essential for formulating recommendations to strengthen preventive policies and practices that are more adaptive and responsive to the evolving dynamics of child crime in the digital era. Consistent with the mandates of Law Number 35 of 2014 on Child Protection and Law Number 11 of 2012 on the Juvenile Criminal Justice System, this study positions prevention as the primary instrument for ensuring effective child protection.

The findings indicate that, despite various innovations introduced by the Sragen Resort Police, the implementation of digital platform–based child crime prevention continues to encounter substantial structural challenges. These constraints are multidimensional and may be broadly categorized into technical and non-technical factors. Both categories are interrelated and directly affect the effectiveness of preventive strategies, particularly in terms of response timeliness, intervention reach, and program sustainability.

These findings corroborate the observations of First Brigadier Harry Septyana Herdani, S.H., who noted that limited institutional resources at the resort police level constitute a persistent challenge in regional jurisdictions, especially when compared with the capacities of provincial police units or the National Police Cyber Division. This condition reflects a structural gap between the increasing complexity of digital crimes and the operational capabilities of local law enforcement agencies.

The analysis further reveals that a shortage of personnel with specialized digital forensic expertise represents one of the most critical obstacles in both preventing and addressing online crimes involving children. The identification and analysis of digital evidence—such as communication records, social media activity logs, metadata, and other forms of electronic information—require advanced and continuously updated technical skills. However, such expertise remains limited at the Sragen Resort Police level, necessitating frequent reliance on technical assistance from the Central Java Regional Police.

In addition to human resource constraints, the study identifies significant limitations in cyber-investigation infrastructure, including both software for digital tracking and hardware supporting forensic analysis. These deficiencies directly contribute to prolonged processing times for digital evidence obtained from platforms such as Instagram, WhatsApp, and Telegram. From a preventive standpoint, delays in digital evidence analysis reduce opportunities for early detection and increase the risk of repeated victimization of children.

The technical challenges are further compounded when digital evidence is fragmented or deliberately obscured, for instance through the use of anonymous accounts hosted on foreign servers, rapid data deletion, or Virtual Private Networks

(VPNs) that conceal perpetrators' identities. This finding is consistent with Hosnah's, who report that weaknesses in regional-level digital evidence management can reduce case resolution rates by up to 40 percent.[21] Accordingly, this study demonstrates that limited technical capacity is not merely an administrative issue but has direct and substantial implications for the effectiveness of legal protection afforded to children.

Beyond technical limitations, non-technical factors also pose significant barriers to the prevention of child crimes through digital platforms. A key finding is the persistent prevalence of underreporting in cases of violence against children, including online abuse and harassment. Interview data suggest that social stigma, fear of intimidation or retaliation, and concerns regarding psychological and social consequences frequently discourage victims and their families from reporting incidents.

This challenge is further exacerbated by reporting mechanisms that are not fully child-friendly, both procedurally and in terms of psychosocial support. As a result, many cases remain undetected at early stages, severely constraining the potential for timely preventive intervention. This finding aligns with the conclusions of Rahmadani et al., who emphasize that inadequate reporting systems and limited social service support contribute significantly to the persistence of latent cases of violence against children.[22]

This study finds that cross-sectoral coordination among the Sragen Police, the Regional Education Office, the Office for Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (DP3AKB), educational institutions, and the Integrated Child Social Welfare Center (PKSAI) in Sragen remains limited. Although collaborative initiatives have been undertaken through school-based outreach programs, divergences in operational procedures, policy orientations, and institutional priorities frequently impede the implementation of comprehensive prevention strategies. The absence of an integrated mechanism for monitoring digital content within educational environments further reflects weak institutional synergy.

These findings are consistent with previous studies highlighting the challenges faced by regional law enforcement agencies in addressing cybercrimes against children. Rovida and Sasmini emphasize that the effectiveness of techno-prevention is highly dependent on institutional capacity and cross-sectoral integration.[23] Similarly, Ariansyah demonstrates that the digital transformation of policing at the local level is often constrained by limited resources and fragmented policy frameworks.[24]

---

[21] Mia Amalia et al., *Asas-Asas Hukum Pidana*, ed. Sepriano Sepriano, Efitra Efitra, and Nur Safitri (Jambi: PT. Sonpedia Publishing Indonesia, 2024).

[22] Rahmadani et al., "Tinjauan Yuridis Tanggung Jawab Orang Tua Dalam Pencegahan Kejahatan Siber Terhadap Anak Di Bawah Umur Dalam Penggunaan Aplikasi Game Roblox."

[23] Rovida and Sasmini, "Konsep Pencegahan Cyberbullying Berbasis Techno Prevention Pada Era Society 5.0 Di Indonesia."

[24] Ariansyah, "Upaya Penanggulangan Kejahatan Perundungan Dunia Maya (Cyber Bullying) Terhadap Anak Dalam Perspektif Hukum Pidana."

Notwithstanding these challenges, this study contributes to the literature by integrating technical and non-technical barriers into a unified analytical framework. The findings illustrate that deficiencies in digital forensic capacity are inextricably linked to social factors such as underreporting and weak institutional coordination, as both simultaneously undermine the effectiveness of child crime prevention efforts.

The Sragen Police's initiatives to prevent child crime through digital platforms remain in a transitional phase toward a more adaptive model of digital policing. Technical limitations underscore the need for structural capacity enhancement, while non-technical constraints highlight the urgency of reforming institutional practices and social engagement strategies. From a legal perspective, this condition reveals a persistent gap between progressive child protection norms and the practical implementation capacity of law enforcement agencies at the regional level.

The findings further underscore that effective prevention strategies cannot rely solely on technological solutions. Instead, they must be supported by child-friendly reporting mechanisms, improved public digital literacy, and sustained cross-sectoral collaboration. Accordingly, the policy recommendations advanced by this study emphasize the importance of strengthening digital forensic training for police personnel, ensuring adequate cyber-investigation infrastructure, and establishing formal cross-agency coordination forums with integrated operational standards.

The legal, institutional, social, and technological constraints faced by the Sragen Police in preventing child crime through digital platforms constitute a systemic challenge that necessitates comprehensive and coordinated responses. Child crime prevention in the digital era cannot be effectively addressed through sectoral or ad hoc measures alone but requires adaptive, responsive, and child-centered policy frameworks grounded in the principle of the best interests of the child.

4.   CONCLUSION

This study empirically examines the implementation of child crime prevention through the use of digital platforms by the Sragen Resort Police as part of a preventive law enforcement strategy in the digital era. The findings indicate that, although the Sragen Resort Police have introduced various digital-based preventive initiatives, their effectiveness remains constrained by limited digital forensic capacity and cyber-investigation infrastructure, weak cross-sectoral coordination, and a high level of underreporting of online crimes involving children.

The results underscore a persistent gap between the progressive normative framework governing child protection and the practical implementation capacity of regional law enforcement agencies. This study contributes to the literature by offering theoretical insights that advance scholarship on digital policing and child protection, as well as practical implications to inform the development of more adaptive and

responsive child crime prevention policies. Nevertheless, this research is subject to several limitations, including its localized focus on the Sragen Resort Police and its qualitative design, which does not provide a quantitative assessment of policy effectiveness.

Based on these findings, the study recommends strengthening prevention policies through enhanced digital forensic training for law enforcement personnel, improved access to cyber-investigation technologies, and the establishment of integrated, child-friendly cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms. Future research is encouraged to expand the geographical scope of analysis and employ quantitative or comparative methodologies to more objectively assess the impact and generalizability of digital-based child crime prevention strategies.

REFERENCES

Journals

Ahmad, Dwi Nur Fauziah, and Nucharee Nuchkoom Smith. "Digital Safety for Women and Children: Legal and Policy Challenges Indonesia, Philippines, and Thailand." *Contemporary Issues on Law Reform in Indonesia and Global Context* 5, no. 4 (2024): 1673–96. https://doi.org/10.15294/jllr.v5i4.16539.

Aksayeth, Muhammad Bara, Hafid Yahya, Daniel Alvin Faga, Dicky Fahmi, Fadel Muhamad Aliyafasya, Muhammad Mustaqiim, Muhdiatul Zannah, et al. "Membangun Kesadaran Keamanan Data Pribadi Di Era Digital." *Jurnal Pengabdian Kepada Masyarakat* 2, no. 5 (2025): 523–527. https://jurnalmahasiswa.com/index.php/appa/article/view/1979.

Ariansyah, Ariansyah. "Upaya Penanggulangan Kejahatan Perundungan Dunia Maya (Cyber Bullying) Terhadap Anak Dalam Perspektif Hukum Pidana." *Lexlata: Jurnal Ilmiah Ilmu Hukum* 7, no. 2 (2025): 94–112. https://doi.org/10.28946/lexl.v7i2.3819.

Giessen, Mark van der, and Petra Saskia Bayerl. "Designing For Successful Online Engagement: Understanding Technological Frames of Citizen and Police Users of Community Policing Platforms." *Government Information Quarterly* 39, no. 3 (2022): 1–13. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.giq.2022.101711.

Hutahaean, Armunanto, and Erlyn Indarti. "Lembaga Penyidik Dalam Sistem Peradilan Pidana Terpadu Di Indonesia." *Jurnal Legislasi Indonesia* 16, no. 1 (2019): 27–41. https://doi.org/10.54629/jli.v16i1.453.

Ikawati, Linda. "Pengaruh Media Sosial Terhadap Tindak Kejahatan Remaja." *Syariati: Jurnal Studi Al-Qur'an Dan Hukum* 4, no. 2 (2018): 223–232. https://doi.org/10.32699/syariati.v4i02.1179.

Kurniawan, Kukuh S. "Policing The Digital Realms: Reflection on Community Policing Discourses in the Digital Realms." *International Review of Humanities*

Studies 6, no. 2 (2021): 904–17.
https://scholarhub.ui.ac.id/irhs/vol6/iss2/22?utm_source=scholarhub.ui.ac.i
d%2Firhs%2Fvol6%2Fiss2%2F22&utm_medium=PDF&utm_campaign=PD
FCoverPages.

Lisanawati, Go. "Cyber Child Sexual Exploitation Dalam Perspektif Perlindungan
Atas Kejahatan Siber." *Pandecta Research Law Journal* 8, no. 1 (2013): 1–17.
https://doi.org/10.15294/pandecta.v8i1.2348.

Nur, Hilman, Masripa Siti Zahra, Nurmala, Sinta Solihah, Haura Salsabila, Siti
Maesaroh, Alya Khansa Syahla, and Intan Robiatul Adawiah. "Perlindungan
Anak Dari Eksploitasi Di Dunia Digital: Kajian Terhadap Kejahatan Online
(Pasal 761 Jo.Pasal 88 UU No.35 Tahun 2014 Dan UU No 11 Tahun 2008
Tentang ITE)." *Journal Customary Law* 2, no. 3 (2025): 1–13.
https://doi.org/10.47134/jcl.v2i3.3925.

Rahmadani, Nurhikma Resky, Rizky Amelia, Shevira Amelia Putri, Rosnila Nur
Ramadhannia, Reno Mandala Putra, Maharani Galuh Pratiwi, Neneng Lestari,
and Sunaryo Sunaryo. "Tinjauan Yuridis Tanggung Jawab Orang Tua Dalam
Pencegahan Kejahatan Siber Terhadap Anak Di Bawah Umur Dalam
Penggunaan Aplikasi Game Roblox." *Al-Zayn: Jurnal Ilmu Sosial & Hukum* 3,
no. 6 (2025): 8643–8650. https://doi.org/10.61104/alz.v3i6.2501.

Rovida, Khofidhotur, and Sasmini Sasmini. "Konsep Pencegahan Cyberbullying
Berbasis Techno Prevention Pada Era Society 5.0 Di Indonesia." *Jurnal Hukum
Ius Quia Iustum* 31, no. 2 (2024): 461–485.
https://doi.org/10.20885/iustum.vol31.iss2.art10.

Tempestini, Giorgia, Sara Merà, Marco Pietro Palange, and Alexandra Bucciarelli.
"Improving the Cybersecurity Awareness of Young Adults through a Game-
Based Informal Learning Strategy." *Information* 15, no. 10 (2024): 1–19.
https://doi.org/10.3390/info15100607.

Thesis

Almardiyah, Nur Aina. "Peran Pusat Kesejahteraan Sosial Anak Integratif (PKSAI)
Terhadap Perlindungan Kesejahteraan Anak Di Kabupaten Sragen: Studi Di
PKSAI Sragen." Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta, 2023.
https://eprints.ums.ac.id/112280/.

Ansary, Mila Gustiana, M. Syukri Akub, and Syamsuddin Muchtar. "Kedudukan
Lembaga Perlindungan Saksi Dan Korban Dalam Proses Pemeriksaan Perkara
Pidana," 2013. http://repository.unhas.ac.id/8222/2/milagustia-1054-1-13-
mila-y 1-2.pdf.

Primalia, Jovanka Larasati. "Pemolisian Ruang Siber (Cyberspace) Melalui Virtual
Community Policing Sebagai Bentuk Pencegahan Kejahatan Siber: Studi Kasus
Pemolisian Terhadap Kejahatan Siber Di Direktorat Tindak Pidana Siber."

Universitas Indonesia, 2020.
https://lib.ui.ac.id/detail?id=20500092&lokasi=lokal.

Books

Amalia, Mia, Ikhwan Rays, Asmak Ul Hosnah, and Rahma Melisha Fajrina. *Asas-Asas Hukum Pidana.* Edited by Sepriano Sepriano, Efitra Efitra, and Nur Safitri. Jambi: PT. Sonpedia Publishing Indonesia, 2024.

Reports

United Nations Children's Fund. "The State of Children in Indonesia." New York, 2020.
https://www.unicef.org/indonesia/sites/unicef.org.indonesia/files/2020-06/The-State-of-Children-in-Indonesia-2020.pdf.