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Economic Exploitation of Children in the Urban Context: A Case Study of Palembang City

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Abstract: This article aims to examine children as victims often exploited in the social reality of society. The study is conducted to observe how children are utilized as instruments to meet economic needs, primarily by their parents. Additionally, this investigation seeks to examine, analyze the causative factors, and explore the implications resulting from economic exploitation of children. The approach in this paper is descriptive-qualitative, utilizing a library research method with readings and searches on the Google search engine related to "economic exploitation of children." The article reveals that children are positioned as tools to acquire resources for their parents. It also illustrates that socio-economic conditions often serve as a rationale for parents to exploit children economically, and this exploitation has persisted continuously amidst the growing demands for child protection. The study further demonstrates systematic and structured economic exploitation of children in Palembang City, frequently conducted openly. Such practices place children as vulnerable subjects within the legal framework, often neglecting the rights of children, as commonly observed in the social reality of the community..

Keywords: Exploitation; Economy; Children's Rights.

Abstrak: Artikel ini ditujukan untuk melihat anak sebagai korban yang seringkali dieksploitasi dalam realitas sosial masyarkat. Studi ini dilakukan untuk melihat bagaimana anak-anak dijadikan alat untuk memenuhi kebutuhan ekonomi baik dilakukan oleh orang tua. Selain itu kajian ini untuk mengkaji, menganalisa faktor penyebab, dan implikasi yang disebabkan oleh eksploitasi anak secara ekonomi. Pendekatan dalam tulisan ini bersifat deskriptif kualitatif, studi ini menggunakan kajian library research dengan pembacaan dan penelurusan di mesin pencari google berkaitan dengan "ekploitasi ekonomi atas anak". Tulisan ini memperlihatkan bahwa anak ditempatkan sebagai alat untuk mendapatkan resource bagi orang tua. Hal ini juga menunjukkan kondisi sosial ekonomi seringkali menjadi alasan bagi orang tua untuk mengeksploitasi anak secara ekonomi, bahkan hal tersebut telah beralangsung secara terus menerus ditengah ramainya tuntutan atas perlindungan hak anak. Studi ini juga menunjukkan eksploitasi ekonomi atas anak yang terjadi di kota Palembang secara sistematis dan terstruktur dan kerap dilakukan secara terbuka, praktik tersebut menempatkan anak-anak sebagai objek lemah dalam hukum sehingga kerap mengabaikan hak-hak anak yang banyak terjadi dalam realitas sosial masyarakat.

Kata Kunci: Eksploitasi: Ekonomi; Hak Anak.

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Introduction

Children, besides being a gift, are also a trust from God, often becoming victims harmed by social degradation. During economic recessions, children are used as commodities that can benefit parents, through various exploitations that have become part of a set of rules involving children. Socioeconomic conditions become a reason for parents to exploit children, and this practice has persisted for a long time and has become more intensive amid the increasing demands for the protection of children's rights, as declared by the United Nations.¹ Almost every country faces issues related to child exploitation. Septi states that the tradition of profiting from children has been ongoing for hundreds of years.² This practice, as pointed out by Akbar, is a tradition that has been happening through generations, and even maintained by parents to gain benefits. Thus, the practice of exploiting children becomes an important issue that needs to be addressed.

Studies examining child exploitation have tended to position children as objects that bear the consequences of exploitation.³ Parents are recognized to have legitimacy over children, making it easy for them to force children to generate profits.⁴ Child exploitation can be seen as a space of coercion within cultural, economic, and political spheres used to generate income.⁵ Children almost always become victims of individual or group interests, as seen in various forms of child exploitation, including begging, street performing, selling goods,

prostitution, and involvement in drugs.⁶ Children should also be viewed as the future generations of the nation.⁷ Within the family context, children are entrusted as a gift from Allah that must be protected, educated, and guided to be free from harm and to have a bright future, not to eliminate their future.⁸ Therefore, guidelines are needed to minimize the practice of child exploitation.

This paper aims to address existing gaps by analyzing the structure of child exploitation in the economy of Palembang city. Thus, the level of child exploitation increases, resulting in the loss of children's freedoms. Therefore, three important questions are proposed in this paper, including: (a) how is the structure of child exploitation in Palembang city, (b) what are the causes of child exploitation in Palembang city, and (c) what are the implications of exploitation on the rights of children in Palembang city. These questions expected to be part of an effort to explain how child exploitation occurs in Palembang city in a structured manner, resulting in the loss of children's rights as part of society.

This paper is based on the argument that in Palembang city, child exploitation is possible in a structured manner and continues to persist in society. Parents, even those who have legitimacy over children, often use this power to gain profits. For example, children on the streets are turned into street performers, street vendors, clowns, beggars, and more, making them the backbone of the family, even though their rights as children are lost as a result of child

¹ Beta Septi Iryani and D.S. Priyarsono, "Eksploitasi Terhadap Anak Yang Bekerja Di Indonesia," *Jurnal Ekonomi Dan Pembangunan Indonesia*, 2013, https://doi.org/10.21002/jepi.v13i2.226.

² Akbar Tanjung Juraid, Oryza Pneumatica Inderasari, and Khalifatul Syuhada, "The Eksploitasi Anak Dalam Tradisi Pacuan Kuda Pada Masyarakat Dompu," RESIPROKAL: Jurnal Riset Sosiologi Progresif Aktual, 2022, https://doi.org/10.29303/resiprokal.v3i2.64.

³ Syarifuddin Hidayat and Ahmad Mahyani, "Perlindungan Hukum Bagi Anak Korban Eksploitasi Sebagai Artis," *Mimbar Keadilan*, 2017, https://doi.org/10.30996/mk.voio.2190.

Monica Monica, "Tinjauan Hukum Terhadap Eksploitasi Anak Di Bawah Umur Menurut Undang-Undang Perlindungan Anak Dan Undang-Undang

Ketenagakerjaan," Ilmu Hukum Prima (IHP), 2021, https://doi.org/10.34012/jihap.v4i2.1757.

⁵ Kayus Kayowuan Lewoleba and Beniharmoni Harefa, "Legal Protection for Child Victims of Human Trafficking," International Journal of Multicultural and Multireligious Understanding (IJMMU), 2020.

⁶ 2018 Cahyani, A.I, "Eksploitasi Anak Jalanan Sebagai Pengamen (Studi Kasus Di Kawasan BKB Kota Palembang)," *Universitas Sriwijaya*, 2018.

 ⁷ Jamaluddin Jamaluddin et al., "Fungsi Dan Wewenang Negara Dalam Diversi Anak," Halu Oleo Legal Research, 2021, https://doi.org/10.33772/holresch.v3i1.17940.

⁸ Lis Yulianti Syafrida Siregar, "Pendidikan Anak Dalam Islam," *Pendidikan Anak Islam*, 2016.

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exploitation. Therefore, efforts are needed to change the pattern of child exploitation in Palembang city, which has been structured, so that children can obtain rights to a protected life, both by customs, the state, and religion.

Literature Review Exploitation

Exploitation in economic concepts is often associated with low-paying jobs that yield significant profits for the employers. From a moral perspective, Brown (2014) contends that exploitation naturally arises for self-beneficial interests.9 Exploitation is frequently employed in drug trafficking involving children and women.10 It also extends to the exploitation of natural resources, impacting ecosystem sustainability and environmental pollution.11 Children, as victims of economic exploitation, face cultural and social discrimination and intimidation.¹² Hence, structured exploitation of children occurs, where they become vulnerable objects, resulting in risks to their freedom due to societal ignorance of children's rights.13

The threat of child exploitation induces fear in the victims, affecting their quality of life, well-being, education, mental health, and social reality. According to Michele (2015), child exploitation influences various aspects

of victims' lives. The social construction theory by Berger emphasizes internalization, externalization, and objectivization as crucial aspects. ¹⁵ Child exploitation affects children's trust, leading to decreased reporting and prevention of exploitation. As explained by Kurniasari, besides inculcating fear and concerns about negative treatment, exploitation positions children as vulnerable objects easily exploited by others.

Child

Children are considered a gift and treasure to parents. They have rights and obligations, including the basic needs of life, protection, and well-being, as outlined in the global Child Convention.¹⁶ Universally, anyone under 18 is categorized as a child. children However, in reality, experience uncertainty, inequality, dependence, lacking fair legal protection from their social structure and culture.17 According to Siregar, children are vulnerable individuals, prone to violence, exploitation, intimidation, and discrimination by both close individuals and society.18 Legal protection for children is conceptualized to fulfill their basic needs and provide a space for them to themselves, express preventing exploitation.19

In Indonesia, children are legally defined as those under 18 years old and

J. Angelo Corlett, "Economic Exploitation in Intercollegiate Athletics,"
 Http://Dx.Doi.Org/10.1080/17511321.2013.824499 7, no. 3 (August 2013): 295-312, https://doi.org/10.1080/17511321.2013.824499.

Shirley Stallings and Michael Montagne, "The Exploitation of Drug Users," Https://Doi.Org/10.3109/10826084.2015.1007692 50, no.
 8-9 (July 2015): 948-51, https://doi.org/10.3109/10826084.2015.1007692.

¹¹ Lailiy Muthmainnah, Rizal Mustansyir, and Sindung Tjahyadi, "Kapitalisme, Krisis Ekologi, Dan Keadilan Inter-Generasi: Analisis Kritis Atas Problem Pengelolaan Lingkungan Hidup Di Indonesia," MOZAIK HUMANIORA, 2020, https://doi.org/10.20473/mozaik.v20i1.15754.

¹² Marzatillah, "Peran Dinas Soial Dalam Penanganan Eksploitasi Anak Di Kota Banda Aceh," *Kinerja Pemerintahan*, 2021.

¹³ RS Kristiani, "Tinjauan Kriminologis Terhadap Kejahatan Eksploitasi Anak Sebagai Pengemis Jalanan (Studi Kasus Kota Pekanbaru)," 2020.

¹⁴ Hadi Machmud, Nur Alim, and Rasmi Rasmi, "Eksploitasi Anak Di Kota Layak Anak (Studi Di Kota Kendari)," *Zawiyah: Jurnal Pemikiran Islam*, 2020, https://doi.org/10.31332/zjpi.v6i1.1856.

¹⁵ Peter Berger, Invitation to Sociology: A Humanist Perspective (New York, NY: Doubleday, 1963).

¹⁶ Shehzad Noorani, "Konvensi Hak Anak: Versi Anak Anak," UNICEFIndonesia, 2018.

¹⁷ Ahmad Syamsul Arifin, "Pendidikan Berbasis Hak Anak Mengikis Praktik Budaya Kekerasan Di Institusi Pendidikan," LITERASI (Jurnal Ilmu Pendidikan), 2017, https://doi.org/10.21927/literasi.2014.5(2).121-136.

Bahrudin Hasan, "GENDER DAN KETIDAK ADILAN,"
 Jurnal Signal, 2019,
 https://doi.org/10.33603/signal.v7i1.1910.

¹⁹ Teni Nurrita, "Pendidikan Anak Dalam Konsep Islam," MISYKAT: Jurnal Ilmu-Ilmu Al-Quran, Hadist, Syari'ah Dan Tarbiyah, 2021, https://doi.org/10.33511/misykat.v6n1.157-170.

should receive legal protection to prevent intimidation, discrimination, and exploitation.²⁰ However, children are still exploited in various forms such as human trafficking, slavery, child prostitution, child labor, and street children. Children are easy targets for exploitation, both psychologically and physically. Structured exploitation of children occurs, involving parents, close individuals, and even institutions and agencies.²¹

Poverty

Poverty is not just an economic issue but also relates to unmet basic human needs.²² It can manifest as both spiritual and material poverty, encompassing clothing, food, and shelter.²³ Poverty is a global issue, including in Indonesia, with increasing numbers, particularly in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁴ Poor communities often face negative stereotypes, with poverty linked to criminality.²⁵ Poverty places individuals in disadvantageous positions due to complex economic factors and internal human factors.²⁶

Crimes resulting from poverty extend beyond mere criminal activities and can also manifest as exploitation to meet basic life needs.²⁷ Social factors contribute to the rise and fall of poverty rates, as seen in Palembang, where poverty increased due to the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁸ Exploitation of children is inseparable from poverty, emphasizing the importance of income

derived from street children to support daily life. This highlights that the income earned by street children is utilized by various parties, including parents, close individuals, and even structured entities exploiting children to meet daily living needs.

Method

Poverty renders children as structured exploitation victims, leading to the neglect of their rights. The experiences of systematically exploited children can be explained through a qualitative descriptive study approach. The data in this paper consist of descriptions of various events obtained from online sources, focusing on the theme of "structured child exploitation" in Palembang. The discussion revolves around the perpetrators, victims, and individual and group structures exploiting these children.

From September 15 to October 9, 2022, the study involved reading data related to children involved in exploitation practices in Palembang. The readings revealed three themes chosen for discussion as significant findings in this paper. The data collection process involved systematically documenting all online data to gain insights, classifying data according to the paper's needs, and sharing it by theme and the characteristics of child exploitation in Palembang. The obtained data took the form of descriptive quotes from selected online news, classified and presented thematically. In addition to

²⁰ Lewoleba and Harefa, "Legal Protection for Child Victims of Human Trafficking."

²¹ " Selamatkan et al., "Eksploitasi Anak Di Bawah Umur Sebagai Bentuk Penyimpangan Sosial: Studi Kasus Pekerja Anak Di Sekitar Lampu Merah Kiaracondong," 2019.

²² Dwi Septa Aryani and Yuni Rachmawati, "Tipologi Kemiskinan Di Kota Palembang Dengan Menggunakan Model Cibest," *Jurnal Ilmiah Ekonomi Global Masa Kini*, 2019, https://doi.org/10.36982/jiegmk.v10i2.844.

²³ Johan Arifin, "Budaya Kemiskinan Dalam Penanggulangan Kemiskinan Di Indonesia," Sosio Informa, 2020, https://doi.org/10.33007/inf.v6i2.2372.

²⁴ BPS Indonesia, "Statistik Profil Kemiskinan Di Indonesia," Profil Kemiskinan Di Indonesia Maret, 2020.

²⁵ Anna Lindqvist, Fredrik Björklund, and Martin Bäckström, "The Perception of the Poor: Capturing

Stereotype Content with Different Measures," Https://Doi.Org/10.1080/19012276.2016.1270774 69, no. 4 (October 2017): 231–47, https://doi.org/10.1080/19012276.2016.1270774.

AK FIKHI, M Mulyanto, and DHE Nueraheni, "Partisipasi Masyarakat Dalam Pelaksanaan Program Penanggulangan Kemiskinan Perkotaan (P2KP) Di Kelurahan Talang Putri Kecamatan Plaju Kota Palembang," 2009.

²⁷ Muhammad Gunawan Sadjali, "Perlindungan Hukum Terhadap Eksploitasi Ekonomi Anak Jalanan Dalam Perspektif Hukum Perlindungan Anak," *Rechtidee*, 2021, https://doi.org/10.21107/ri.v16i2.10731.

²⁸ Reza Ghasarma et al., "Pendampingan Pengelolaan Keuangan UMKM Dan Optimalisasi Usaha Masyarakat Dalam Menghadapi Era Normal Baru Di Kecamatan Ilir Barat II Kota Palembang," Sricommerce: Journal of Sriwijaya Community Services, 2022, https://doi.org/10.29259/jscs.v3i1.49.

primary online data, this paper is supported by other secondary data sources related to and associated with the research object. Indepth data analysis was conducted to answer the research questions, referring to an interactive model of analysis. After the data collection, these components were reduced and presented before drawing conclusions.

Results and Discussion Child Exploitation in Palembang

Child exploitation in Palembang is a well-known issue, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Parents, seeking solutions for livelihood, exploit their children, leading to various forms of child exploitation. The following table presents instances of child exploitation in Palembang:

Table 1: Cases of Child Exploitation in Palembang

Perpetrator	Victim	Cases and Evidence Source	e
Family (grandmoth er)	Underage child	A woman (46) in Palembang, South Sumatra, identified as SY, was arrested for Detik.c physically assaulting an om 8-year-old, captured in a viral video on social media.	:
Parents	Underage child	The Palembang City Government, through the Municipal Police (Satpol PP), conducted raids in busy locations with beggars and street children in Palembang.	
Family	Children	Police investigated a case of child exploitation for begging after arresting a 46-year-old woman caught on camera beating an 8-year-old on a sidewalk in Palembang.	··•
Orphanage institution	Children	The Department of Social Affairs in Palembang took action against orphanage caretakers exploiting children for personal gain.	l
Family	Children	Police investigated a <u>Indoperate of child sco.id</u>	2

Perpetrator	Victim	Cases and Evidence Source
		exploitation for
		begging after arresting
		a 46-year-old woman
		caught on camera
		beating an 8-year-old
		on a sidewalk in
		Palembang.

Table 1 highlights several cases of child exploitation in Palembang, including involving family incidents members, orphanage institutions, and street beggars. These cases are under investigation by local authorities, reflecting significant concerns over the protection and welfare of children in the region. In conclusion, child exploitation in Palembang is influenced by individuals exploiting opportunities in the city and is being investigated by authorities.

Child Exploitation in the Economy

Exploitation in various forms contributes to the economic challenges faced by children. Here are examples of child exploitation in the economy in Palembang:

Table 2: Types of Child Exploitation in the Economic Context in Palembang

Perpetrator	Victim	Cases and Evidence	Source
Parents	Children	A girl believed to be a street beggar in Palembang became a victim of violence by women on the roadside.	Tribunsu msel.co m
Interested parties	Children and parents	The Palembang City Government pursued coordinators of beggars and street children exploiting children, disrupting public order.	Antara News
Individuals	Underag e child	The Palembang city government took decisive action against the proliferation of street children, involving those below the age of majority.	Antara News
Beggars/fam ilies	Infants, toddlers, and children	Beggars with young children proliferated at every traffic light intersection in Palembang, seeking	<u>Tribunne</u> <u>ws.com</u>

Perpetrator	Victim	Cases and Evidence	Source
		compassion from passersby.	
Family	Underag e child	The Chairman of KPAI Palembang stated that child exploitation involves employing underage children as beggars, exploited in an organized manner.	Tribunne ws.com

Table 2 illustrates various types of child exploitation in Palembang, including instances of violence by street beggars, exploitation by coordinators, and organized begging involving children. These activities reveal serious concerns about personal gain through the abuse of children's rights and welfare. In summary, various forms of exploitation by close relatives aim to benefit personally, contributing to the violation of children's rights.

Economic Levels in the City of Palembang

The economic situation in Palembang has shown signs of improvement after the COVID-19 pandemic. South Sumatra, one of the richest provinces in Indonesia, has focused on development and welfare. However, despite positive economic growth, poverty and unemployment persist:

Table 3: Economic Situation and Poverty Indicators in Palembang

Actor	Economic Level	Source
	Adi Sanghadi, a child	RRI
		Palemba
	Sumatra, shared	ng
	insights on the	J
	alarming prevalence of	
	child exploitation. In his	
	statement on Sunday	
	(3/12/2021), he	
	highlighted that the	
	ongoing condition of	
	child exploitation has	
Families	been exacerbated by the COVID-19	
	pandemic. The	
	increased number of	
	workers facing layoffs	
	(PHK) due to the	
	pandemic has	
	intensified the	
	challenges,	
	necessitating prompt	
	and effective solutions	
	to address this	
	concerning issue.	
	In March 2020, the	<u>Badan</u>
	number of poor people	
	in Palembang, with per	
		(bps.go.i
Percentage of Poor	expenditure below the	<u>d)</u>
Population in	poverty line, reached	
Palembang in March	182,610 (10.89%). This was an increase of 1.94	
2020 was 10.89%	thousand people	
	compared to the	
	March 2019 condition	
	of 180,670 people	
	(10.90%).	
		sindone
Based on data from the		ws.com
Regional Development		
	Palembang did not	
	correlate with a	
and Development		
(Litbang) Palembang,		
	economic growth	
_	failed to decrease the	
about 3.17%.	number of poor	
	residents.	
	The Palembang City	
	Government strives to	
	reduce unemployment	
	to below nine percent	
	in 2021. In 2020,	
Family (Government)	unemployment	inews.id
	reached 9.86% due to the impact of the	
	COVID-19 pandemic.	
	The Head of Bappeda	
	Litbang Kota	
	Palembang, Harrey	
	i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i	

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Actor	Economic Level	Source
	Hadi, stated that	,
	according to BPS data	ì
	in 2020, the number of	f
	unemployed people	<u> </u>
	reached 82,771, with ar	1
	open unemployment	t
	rate of 9.86%.	

Table 3 outlines the economic indicators in Palembang, showing significant economic growth alongside persistent poverty and unemployment challenges, particularly exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite economic progress, the increase in poverty and unemployment highlights the need for continued efforts to improve economic conditions and address related issues such as child exploitation. In conclusion, the economic situation in Palembang has faced challenges due to COVID-19. Efforts are being made to recover the economy and address issues of child exploitation.

Discussion

Dynamics of Child Exploitation in Palembang

This text illustrates how the practice of child exploitation not only uses children as tools for profit but also results in the neglect of their rights and the loss of legal protection, systematically carried out by parents and close relatives. Child exploitation, as described by Baidawi et al., involves using a child as a tool for the profit of individuals who exploit them, either physically or verbally. Structured child exploitation takes various forms involving parents, families, and institutions. In general, systematic exploitation has long-term negative impacts on the psychological, psychological, and quality of life of exploited children. Exploitation often occurs for economic reasons, and it can be observed in both formal and informal ways.

Children, as victims of structured exploitation, also indicate the lack of realization of protection for children's rights, both legally and socially. Children are considered to lack full authority in determining their future life goals. Therefore, according to Herdiansyah, children have inherent rights taught in Islam concerning

children's rights in both the worldly and afterlife contexts. When these rights are not fulfilled, the life orientation of children is often determined and structured by a system, both legally and socially.²⁹ In addition to being systematic and structured, child exploitation is sometimes willingly carried out. Economic factors and unmet living needs contribute to the increasing prevalence of child exploitation in society.

Structural Factors of Child Exploitation in Palembang

Economic limitations and the increasing cost of living are reasons for the ongoing practice of child exploitation. Additionally, the low knowledge of parents and society regarding children who are victims of exploitation significantly influences the mentality of children in the future. Noorani emphasizes that the state guarantees a child's survival through protection from discrimination, exploitation, neglect, and the process of their physical, mental, social, moral, and spiritual development. The prevalence of child exploitation can be attributed to various factors, including:

- Lack of parental knowledge: Parents and families exploit children due to a lack of knowledge about the rights that should be granted to children, driven by economic factors.
- Diminishing spiritual values: The decline in spiritual values can make children more susceptible to negative influences, leading to exploitation.
- Low education levels: The combination of low education levels and the influence of a social environment that does not protect children can pave the way for economic exploitation.

Prevalence of child exploitation, as stated by Wondimu & Serpa, occurs due to family pressures and economic poverty. Additionally, weak law enforcement makes child exploitation prevalent in various aspects such as child labor, human trafficking, sexual exploitation, narcotics, and other negative activities.

Undang- Undang Nomor 1 Tahun 1974," Lex Privatum, 2019.

²⁹ Angly Branco Ontolay, "Hak Dan Kewajiban Orang Tua Dan Anak Ditinjau Dari Pasal 45 Juncto 46

Implications of Economic Exploitation Structure on Children in Palembang

Considering that exploitation child continues from generation to generation, knowledge and concepts related to systematic and structured child exploitation are essential for anticipating stimulant-based exploitation practices. Community organizations employ children have previously made agreements with the parents who also benefit from these exploitative practices. The lack of clear law enforcement is a constraint in curbing exploitation. Therefore, structured exploitation often occurs unconsciously and is well-organized.

Exploitation has long-term impacts on children's lives, both physical and mental. Children may experience low educational attainment, lack of affection, legal neglect, discrimination due to exploitation, and mental burdens. Furthermore, according to Faridah & Afiyani, although child labor exploitation is protected by the state, its implementation often lacks legal strength. Children lose various rights, including the right to play, freedom, protection, and are forced to become the family's breadwinners because parents are unwilling to work. Children's orientation is solely driven by the pursuit of money, often prioritizing work over education.

Children, as victims of systematic exploitation, not only face exploitation from parents, close relatives, and communities but also become agents in recruiting other children for exploitation. As stated by Khairunnisa, children who have been victims of sexual exploitation may sometimes become agents themselves, exploiting other Therefore, attention from parents, society, and communities is needed to ensure government protection, realizing children's rights as outlined in the global Convention on the Rights of the Child. Achieving this goal will minimize the practice of structured child exploitation in the lives of the Palembang community.

Conclussion

Child exploitation remains a pervasive issue in Palembang, where children are often victimized by individuals seeking personal gain through exploitative practices. This

exploitation occurs openly and structurally, involving not only parents and close relatives but also communities. The lack of understanding and weak legal protection for children contribute to the prevalence of exploitation. Various factors, including economic challenges, unmet basic needs, and the interests of individuals seeking to exploit children, contribute to the continuation of these practices. Cultural norms that subordinate children and women further exacerbate the problem.

The implications for children who fall victim to exploitation are profound, encompassing low educational attainment, social unawareness, economic neglect, and a tendency to think negatively, resulting in significant psychological and emotional effects. Government intervention is crucial to protecting children from exploitation by ensuring basic needs are met, providing security within families and communities, and preventing exploitation in everyday life.

This research, focused on economic law in Islam, delves into the institutional aspects of exploitation in Palembang. It emphasizes the need for a legal institution to serve as a protective umbrella for children's rights within family law. Establishing legitimacy within family law is expected to minimize exploitative practices rooted in tradition and culture. The legal system regarding child exploitation implies the necessity of discursive dialogue for effective enforcement. Consequently, this research contributes to the field of Islamic law, particularly family law, closely related to the exploitation of children's rights in real-life situations.

The study underscores that child exploitation occurs at the smallest levels, such as within families and communities, and even within specific cultural contexts. However, it acknowledges limitations in fully capturing the broader patterns of forced exploitation within society. For a more comprehensive understanding, further analysis is recommended, especially regarding the relationship between talent development and exploitative practices. The study suggests the need for additional Vol. 10, Issue 02, October 2023 P-ISSN: <u>2355-5173</u> E-ISSN: <u>2656-9477</u>

research that accommodates more representative cases and explores the relationship between culture and the systemic exploitation of children's rights. Such research would complement the scope of this study, providing a more in-depth analysis of systematic child exploitation.

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