## **Child Prostitution in The Media Vortex**

# Rr. Pramesthi Ratnaningtyas

Universitas Amikom Yogyakarta Email: <a href="mailto:pramesthi@amikom.ac.id">pramesthi@amikom.ac.id</a>

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#### **Abstract**

Antaranews reported that 89% of children's problems in the media arise from cases or events that befall children. Media coverage makes children victims twice—first, the victims of violence themselves. Second, victims of media reports do not have a child's perspective that it hurts children, even their future. Likewise, child prostitution is still exciting news because it is a ready-to-consume commodity for readers. One of them, Okezone, as an online media, ranks second in Alexa after Google.com and first as a media portal in Singapore and Malaysia. Events experienced by children become commodities to be commodified so that the media can utilize them. Moreover, the news related to child prostitution can make the media visited by many people. This study seeks to see how Okezone.com describes the position of children in prostitution in their reporting. Using the discourse analysis method developed by Sara Mills as an analytical knife and agenda setting, this study found that the selected informants cannot be separated from the media agenda when carrying out their journalistic work. The story's writing style from the police's point of view is shown more often, thus showing that prostitution incidents were exposed because of the prominent role of the police. Children are still positioned as objects to be told and trapped in body manipulation for prostitution.

**Keywords:** Sara Mills, Child Prostitution, Media, Okezone.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The world of children still and will continue to receive attention in the mass media. Eko Maryadi, in an article by Saputra (2013) in Antaranews, explained that 89% of children's problems in the media arise from cases or events that befall children. It starts from toddlers to children in a dark world, such as prostitution. Various transactions with sexual purposes that involve children in them must involve parties who deliberately take advantage. Eddyono, Hendra and Budiman (2017) stated that child prostitution is a commercial transaction involving children for sexual purposes that someone for profit carries out. Some parties control and act as intermediaries in regulating and supervising prostitution transactions. There can also be direct negotiations between the perpetrators of sexual exploitation and the child. Kusumawati and Rochaeti (2019) see that prostitution will continue to exist. This condition will continue to occur if many parties are still interested in using prostitution services.

Nkhoma and Charnley (2018) explained that the most dominant and interconnected problem related to child prostitution is the absence of family support. The absence of such support comes through extreme poverty, orphanage, early marriage, and limited opportunities for education and income independence. Not to mention the normalization of violence in gender-based marriages. Even if children leave a marriage, they find prostitution a viable way to generate enough income to meet their survival needs. Child prostitution also occurs in several countries. One of them is in the province of Mae Hong Son, Thailand.

The leading cause of prostitution is the gap between poverty and prosperity. Inadequate education, the innocence of children, materialism, and lack of morals and ethics from parties related to adultery, and being influenced by someone who wants to take advantage of children. Not only that, but the lack of knowledge of the law also brings children into prostitution. Material values, being a drug user, early love, and family problems are the entry process into child prostitution (Ramangthong & Srisorn, 2020).

Ulfiah and Hannah (2018) describe the emergence of a complex problem of prostitution with family resilience through various perspectives and dimensions. The complexity that occurs cannot be separated from various aspects such as cultural, political, social, and economic factors. Global influence and other aspects also contribute to and increase the influence and impact of the high rate of juvenile prostitution. These things have implications in the form of a torn system, rules, and societal family resilience. This study looks at juvenile prostitution from the mechanism of prostitution, the place of prostitution, and the characteristics of perpetrators and victims. It was found that the parties were the perpetrators of selling children in prostitution, namely girlfriends, friends, and pimps. Poverty and lifestyle are the dominant specific reasons for the victims of child prostitution.

This can be seen and proven by the work status of the parents, the education of the victim, and the condition of the place of residence. Weak psychological, physical, and economic family circumstances with a socio-cultural scope make teenage girls become victims of prostitution. Suyanto, Hidayat and Wadipalapa (2020) saw the various difficulties of life experienced by prostituted children in East Java. His research found that Indonesia has a commercial sex industry. Prostituted children generally experience exploitation and violence. The struggle of children to survive in Indonesia's prostitution business is a big challenge because of the weak bargaining position. This includes the still strong ideology of Indonesia's patriarchy, low socioeconomic position, and children dealing with adults. Like child prostitution in Malawi, which shows that children are not passive victims. They make decisions that lead, either directly or indirectly, to prostitution. For them, prostitution is a means to ensure the survival of themselves, their siblings, their children, and their parents. However, when engaged in it, they find themselves exposed to various forms of exploitation and abuse (Nkhoma & Charnley, 2018).

In Indonesia itself, the KPAI data bank (2021) mentions that for the category of Children Against the Law, there were 44 children as perpetrators of sexual violence in 2020. In the same category and year, the victims were 419 people. They doubled from the previous year

by as many as 190. In the category of trafficking and exploitation, there were 29 cases of children as victims of prostitution, while 23 cases of children as victims of commercial sexual exploitation of children. A member of the central KPAI, Ai Maryati Solihah, on the BBC report written by Roosyana (2021), revealed that the highest contributor was cases of children as perpetrators and victims of sexual violence, which amounted to 1098 cases reported in 2020, or 42%. From January to April 2020, there were 35 cases with 234 victims. The highest was online prostitution, with 65%.

Prostitution violates decency, violates the law, and is an illegal act. The growth of prostitution in Indonesia cannot be separated from economic conditions, lifestyle, lures, or invitations that plunge. Children who fall into prostitution are related to the absence of a safe space for children in the surrounding environment. No primary education educates children regarding their bodies, reproductive health, and the consequences of free sex, and information that prostitution is an unlawful act. So, the children are not only victims but also perpetrators. The act of prostitution also has an impact on the absence of safe spaces for women and children. Not to mention when the event became the consumption of capitalism. The incident later became the object of news production, often putting children on the side of silence. This situation cannot be separated from the lack of placing children, especially victims, as storytellers.

Susilo and Haezer (2017) explain that women's sexuality is represented, produced, and distributed in scripts or sentences of rape news on online news sites. There is a tendency for journalists not to provide space for women who are victims of sexual violence. The media also does not provide a point of view for legal counsel, even the victim's family, to describe the sexual violence received based on the dimensions of the story of the woman who became the victim. The apparent finding is the opposite. Information presented through news sentences tends to come from and is rooted in the parties who perpetrate the violence themselves and law enforcement officers.

Eko Maryadi, in the news on Antaranews written by Saputra (2013), explained that media coverage does not have a child's perspective. This condition causes children who are victims of violence, rape, or abuse to become victims twice. First, the victims of violence themselves. Second, victims of media reports do not have a child's perspective, hurting the child, even in the future.

Research conducted by Hikmatunisa and Setiawan (2022) found that on CNN Indonesia's news, there is the use of the word "harassment" in the news title, which can be interpreted as an action or behaviour with bad intentions towards other people. Unlike the Kumparan.com news, where the word "obscene" is used in the news title, which can be interpreted as an act that is heinous and dirty or indecent, and the word "persecution" can be interpreted as an act that causes pain and suffering. In addition, there is the word "sexual harassment" in the news content, which has all unwanted sexual acts or requests for sexual intercourse that make someone feel humiliated or offended.

The headline used by the online media uses a choice of words that offends the victim. This situationares reinforced by Jailan's opinion (2018), which explains that the selection and presence of sources selected by the mass media also strengthen gender bias because the presence of these sources is to legalize domination. The space and news structure also provide more significant space for men. Women are positioned as objects.

Kusumawati and Rochaeti (2019) stated that prostitution violates human rights and is a form of violence against women. Prostitution is part of human trafficking, a form of sexual and economic use. Article 76I of the PA Law prohibits the use of children by affirming that everyone is prohibited from placing, allowing, doing, ordering to do, or participating in the economic and sexual exploitation of children. From the article, the meaning of 'economic exploitation' relates to activities to gain benefit from the victim, either without or with the victim's consent. Efforts to use the victim can be in the form of the child's power or ability by other parties. The forms of action can be varied, not only prostitution but also extortion, forced services, oppression, forced labour, and slavery. It can also be done by physically exploiting the victim, whether physically sexual or reproductive organs, or by violating the law by moving or transplanting organs or body tissues. 'Sexual exploitation' relates to all forms of using sexual organs or other organs of children for profit, not limited to all activities of prostitution and obscenity.

At the same time, prostitution is still exciting news for the media because it is a commodity that will be ready to be consumed by readers, one of which is the Okezone. The online media was chosen because it ranks second on Alexa after Google.com (Top Sites in Indonesia, 2022). Okezone.com shifts the position of detik.com, which has been Alexa's number two media portal. Previously, Okezone.com also succeeded in shifting to other well-known media portals, namely Liputan6.com and Kompas.com, on February 11, 2019. Okezone.com was first positioned as a media portal in Singapore and Malaysia (Untari, 2019). The exploitation of children is carried out sexually and economically. This condition cannot be separated from the position of children who are seen as weak. They are also considered far from mature, so they are easily trapped in the lure that puts them in an unfavorable situation. Okezone.com captures these events and phenomena to be used as news for consumption. The events experienced by children have become a commodity to be commodified so that they can benefit the media. If the news related to child prostitution can make the media visited by many people.

According to Google Trends, from May 2021 to April 2022, child prostitution was not searched much compared to prostitution keywords in general. In the keyword prostitution, suggestions of child prostitution were found in the search results. The keyword child prostitution on Google Trends shows increased traffic in October 2021. An increase from 15 searches in September 2021 to 100 searches in October 2021. In October 2021, we found news about child prostitution in apartments, boarding houses, and child prostitution online.

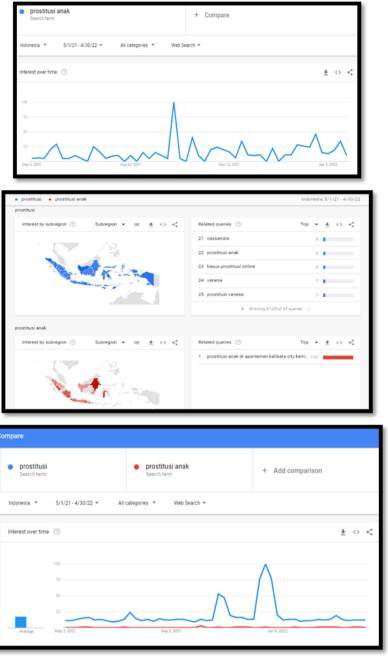


Figure 1. Google Trends Regarding Prostitution

Source: Google Trends (2021)

News places children as objects of news and marginalized. These positions form the text or reading that is present in the community. Discourse in the media is not impartial. Journalists constructed the incident to become news through interviews with various related parties, ranging from victims, perpetrators, police, families, and so on. This is what Okezone did in reporting on child prostitution. Okezone is the second-ranked online

media on Alexa after Google.com (Top Sites in Indonesia, 2022) and first as a media portal in Singapore and Malaysia (Untari, 2019). From these problems, this study seeks to see how Okezone.com describes the position of children in prostitution in their reporting, with two things that are considered in research, namely, how the social actors in the news are positioned in the news and how the reader is positioned in the text.

#### **METHODOLOGY**

This study uses the discourse analysis method developed by Sara Mills as an analytical knife. Research with a descriptive qualitative approach. The qualitative approach focuses on the socially constructed nature of reality to see the acquisition of meaning (Denzin & Lincoln, 2009). The primary data in this research is news text on online media, okezone.com, with a prostitution tag. The tag is rechecked using the hashtag child prostitution.

From several current news, the news will be selected that contains child prostitution for the past 12 months since the research began, namely from May 2021 to April 2022. The choice of the last 12 months is to see how the media responds to the problem of child prostitution within this one year. Until 30 news were obtained, which became the object of research. The 30 stories were analyzed using discourse analysis from Sara Mills.

Table 1. The Table Lists the Articles

News Title		News Title	
1	Polda Metro Jaya Reveals Prostitution Involved Online 18 Children, Dating Then Sold Mode	16	8 Women Become Victims of the Prostitution Business, Lured by Mobile Credit
2	Middle School Students Offer Sex Services, 'Critical Point' of Child Sexual Education	17	8 ABG Open BO in North Jakarta, Promised a Salary of IDR 1 Million per Week
3	Netted During Open BO, Mawar: I Want To Find A Job But Just Graduated From School	18	Police Uncover Child Prostitution Case in Cikini
4	Good grief! 16 Underage Children Forced to Serve Guests, 2 People Get Pregnant	19	Raid Prostitution Places During Ramadan, Police Secure 9 Underage Children
5	List of Cases Involving Same-Sex Couples, from Murder to Prostitution	20	Dating First, the Actor's Mode Makes Elementary School Girl PSK Online
6	Police Exterminate Prostitution in Apartments Involving Underage Children	21	The Man Who Made His Girlfriend an Online PSK Threatened 15 Years in Prison
7	Here's How Pimps Hunt ABG in Apartment Prostitution Cases	22	Reported Missing, 13-Year-Old Girl Turns Out to Be a Prostitute Online
8	4 Cases of Prostitution in	23	Allegedly Involved in Prostitution,

	A		OO Children Americal in Jamehi
	Apartments, Some Are Still 13		89 Children Arrested in Jambi
	Years Old		
9	5 Criminal Cases Involving Middle	24	Reveals Child Prostitution in
	School Children, From Theft to		Tabanan, Police Arrests 3 Actors
	Prostitution		
10		25	Child Departituition Dating and
10	Serving Masher Men, 2 Underage	25	Child Prostitution, Dating and
	Children Only Get IDR 50,000		then Selling, Details on iNews
			Afternoon
11	Viral Video of a Woman Beating 5	26	Child Prostitution Cases in Jakut,
	Teenage Girls as a Result of		Pimps Find Victims with These
	Rejecting an Offer of Prostitution		Characteristics
12	3 Cases of Prostitution Involving	27	Police Arrest Two Underage
	Underage Children, Fees of up to		Prostitution Pimps
	Millions of Rupiah		·
13	Beautiful Teens Selling Theirself	28	Polda Sumsel Dismantles Online
	Through Dating Applications		Prostitution Involve Underage
	Arrested by Police		Children and Offers Threesomes
14	Subjected to Intense Raids, This	29	Cynthiara Alona Charged with 15
	ABG was Caught Checking into A		Years in Prison, Involved in Child
	Hotel Using a Child's Identity Card		Prostitution Case
15	Online Prostitution Involving	30	Police: Online Prostitution Mode
	Underage Children Dismantled by		of Acquaintance on Social Media,
	Police		Dating, Then Selling
	L		<u> </u>

Eriyanto (2011) sees Sara Mills' point of concern lies in her thoughts or point of view on feminism. About how women are presented in the text. Known as the feminist perspective, the discourse's point of interest shows how the text is biased in presenting women because they are placed in the wrong party. While Sara Mills is better known as a discourse expert on women's representation, Sara Mills' approach can be applied to all texts. It is not limited to texts that 'carry' women's problems.

Therefore, Sara Mills' discourse analysis can also be applied to reporting on child prostitution which is the focus of this research. The approach Sara Mills observes is the text and how the position of the actors in it. In the text presented, who is the story's subject, and who is the story's object? These two things determine how the text structure and meaning are treated in the text. Sara Mills emphasizes how the position of social actors, ideas, or events is placed in the text. The emphasis made by Sara Mills determines the form of the text in the audience.

In general, there are two things to note. First, how social actors in the news are positioned? Who are the parties positioned as interpreters in the text to interpret the events and their consequences? Second, how the reader is positioned in the text, in terms of the news text, is interpreted because of negotiations between the writer and the reader. The position of reporting is related not only to journalism but also to news politics

because it is related to the perspective and interests of the storyteller. This is inseparable from the storyteller's ideology.

The storyteller's interests cannot be separated from ideology. Groups that are higher than others cannot be separated from the means of marginalization, bias, and prejudice built into them. Marginalized parties are not present for themselves. He is shown as the object of the storyteller in the community (Eriyanto, 2011). This study also uses agenda setting as a theory to see the prominence of the news or issues raised. Eriyanto (2019) sees that the topics raised by the media are sometimes different from the actual reality. This theory emphasizes that the media can determine what is essential to the public.

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### Interests of the Storyteller

Children in prostitution circles are still an extensive homework for the state, society, families, and individuals. This is because prostitution is the field of capitalism. Furthermore, that is what the media captures, in this case, Okezone, through his reporting on child prostitution. Therefore, in this case, the importance of storytelling is Okezone when conveying information to the public. How Okezone positions readers cannot be separated from media ideology and news politics. As stated by Eriyanto (2011), in many reporting cases, the lower class generally does not have access to the media or is presented poorly.

In the news on Okezone, children who are victims are presented as marginalized. Child victims tend not to be presented to themselves. She is displayed more as an object by other groups, the perpetrators, or the police. News of child prostitution in the Okezone places the victim as an object whose presence is raised through texts from the mouths of the police or perpetrators. Of the total 30 news analyzed, 15 stories used sources from the Regional Police and 11 news stories with sources from the Resort Police.

A total of five news reports used statements from the perpetrators. It differs significantly from the victims and their families whose statements were presented in the prostitution news. The victim's statement was only present in three news stories, one of which also used information from the victim's family. The rest of the Okezone used other sources, such as members of KPAID, Komnas Perempuan, Central KPAI, Satpol PP, and the BNNK Rehabilitation Sub-Coordinator. Within the period of publication of the news, there was also news that contained a summary of prostitution events using the perspective of the police.

Selection of Sources in Okezone News	Number of Sources
Regional Police (Polda)	15
Resort Police (Polres)	11
Perpetrator	5
Victims and/or Victims' Families	3

**Table 2. Selection and Number of Sources in Okezone News** 

Civil Service Police Unit (Satpol PP)	1
other	3

The selection of sources cannot be separated from the media agenda, which is Okezone when carrying out their journalistic work. Using statements from the police cannot be separated from their position as law enforcers. The police are also a representation that the events are legitimate. This cannot be separated from the credibility of the sources. On the other hand, media routines force journalists to broadcast what happened immediately. Due to limited time, the media's guidance sometimes makes it difficult for journalists to find other sources. The media consideration related to limited space in one run also adds difficulty.

Another obstacle is journalists' access to victims, which is not accessible due to trauma and so on. It is different from the perspective used by journalists in covering the event. Few journalists have a victim perspective. Morissan, Wardhani and U (2013) state that the media agenda is formed from various factors that pressure the media. Starting from determining internal programs, editorial and management decisions, the influence of specific individuals, government officials or officials, sponsors, and so on. There is a link between the media agenda and the power center of society's elite.

Okezone related to child prostitution is also inseparable from the process in which the mass media communicates the relative importance of these issues and events to the public. This cannot be separated from the media agenda, as stated by McCombs and Shaw (in Eriyanto, 2019), which illustrates that by highlighting issues, the media can influence issues considered necessary by the public. Rogers and Dearing (1988) explain that the media agenda is set to understand better how change occurs. In the news published by Okezone, there is one event that is presented or packaged in several news stories.

In the end, the news that is presented more than once for the same event becomes the media agenda that has been set. This situation cannot be separated so that the public interested in the event must view or read news from the composition of media programs (Ratnaningtyas, 2020).

Table 3. An Example of an Insident presented in Several News Stories

News Title	Date	
Dating First, the Actor's Mode Makes Elementary School	December 29, 2021,	
Girl PSK Online	22.45 WIB	
The Man Who Makes His Girlfriend an Online PSK	December 29, 2021,	
Threatened with 15 Years in Prison	21.57 WIB	
Reported Missing, 13-Year-Old Girl Turns Out to Be An	December 29, 2021,	
Online PSK	18.24 WIB	

Most of the news in the Okezone uses the form of storytelling, which cannot be separated from the choice of the word 'we,' which tends to highlight the achievements or hard work

of the police. The news shows the success of the police in dismantling online prostitution. Placing the police to be better able to overcome the problem of prostitution. Significantly few other parties have contributed to solving the problem of prostitution in the news. Their existence seems to be lost or lost. The police are a higher group than other groups. There is a storyteller's interest that leads to the marginalization of victims or children who are involved in child prostitution. In addition, it also shows the influence of solid groups to provide a subtle form of social control.

### **Victim Marginalization**

The marginalization of the victim can be seen in how the victim is told. The news mainly presented sees the event from the perspective of the police, which are positioned as the storyteller's subject. The news presented gave many descriptions of the events packaged with the police version of storytelling. In the news entitled "Polda Metro Jaya Reveals Prostitution Involved Online 18 Children, Dating Then Sold Mode", it is said that the victim started prostitution with an invitation from the perpetrator to get acquainted via social media, then became a girlfriend. She was invited to sleep over or stay at a hotel to have sex. The perpetrator did not stop there. He also peddled the victim using the Michat application. Similar to the news entitled "Dating First, the Actor's Mode Makes Elementary School Girl PSK Online, "The Man Who Made His Girlfriend an Online PSK Threatened 15 Years in Prison", "Reported Missing, 13-Year-Old Girl Turns Out To Be An Online PSK". The three stories are the same case.

Elementary school children who are dating have sex and then peddle on mashers. These reports place the victim as a party who consciously wants to commit prostitution. It even shows that the victim is also aware that what she is doing is illegal because the prostitution that arises is based on the will and will. Not only that, but the victim also supports her boyfriend, who is also the perpetrator of the prostitution proceeds. The girlfriend is also the party that plunged the victim into body manipulation for prostitution.

Similar news entitled "Middle School Students Offer Sex Services, 'Critical Point' of Child Sexual Education" describes how the teenager offered sex services by recording a six-second video without clothes with another 17-year-old teenager. In the news, the words 'I,' 'we,' and 'us' are also used, which puts the reader in the situation in the news. This greeting describes how the text communicates with the reader. The text shows that this event cannot be separated from the reader's contribution, as 'I' is also a part of us. It differs from the news entitled "Netted During Open BO, Mawar: I Want to Find A Job But Just Graduated From School." The news also constructs that the child or teenager presented in the news consciously commits prostitution. Just graduating from school and do not having a diploma is a reason to jump into the illegal vortex.

One of the two teenagers said they were afraid that the police would contact their family. It describes what she is doing as a juvenile delinquent, looking for loopholes to lie to her parents but not ready for the consequences of her behavior. Economic and family interests that are not intact are why the two teenagers commit prostitution. The news title also uses the word 'I,' which puts the reader's position as an essential party. The

presence of these words is to emphasize and convinces the reader that the presence of child prostitution cannot be separated from the awareness of the victim, who is also the perpetrator.

From these reports, the reader is led to the depiction of the victim, a naughty child who is accessible to date, have sex with, and peddle her body for the sake of perverted pleasures. Girls who are considered insensitive that themselves and their bodies have been used to fulfill their desires to the economic needs of others, which makes them involved in prostitution. Children who should still spend time playing and learning are described as having to meet the needs of life by peddling their bodies.

Table 4. News About Children Who Become
Objects of Sexual Satisfaction for Dominating Parties

News Title	Date	
Police: Online Prostitution Mode of Acquaintance on Social	6 May 2021,	
Media, Dating, Then Selling	18.41 WIB	
Good grief! 16 Underage Children Forced to Serve Guests, 2	June 16 2021,	
People Get Pregnant	13.14 WIB	
Police Exterminate Prostitution in Apartments Involving	October 4, 2021,	
Underage Children	22.41 WIB	
Here's How Pimps Hunt Teenage Girls in Apartment	October 4, 2021,	
Prostitution Cases	23.14 WIB	
Child Prostitution, Dating and then Selling, Details on iNews	October 14 2021,	
Afternoon	15.51 WIB	

The articles in Table 4 above show how children become objects of sexual gratification for those who dominate or try to take advantage of children who are considered inferior. Victims seem to be easily tricked into serving masher male guests. The notion of children as weak creatures is also raised by intimidation and threats from pimps, who are also her boyfriends. It is reported that these children who are victims are easily deceived by seduction, romance, and love from their boyfriends. They are presented as parties who do not realize that persuasion and sweet words lead to an immoral environment. Bourdieu (2010) stated that love could be the highest form of symbolic violence. It cannot be separated from the most subtle and least visible form of love. Love is an accepted dominance, considered non-threatening and recognized in practice in passion, whether happy or miserable. From this thought, the love presented by the male perpetrator as the victim's boyfriend is only a camouflage for other forms of violence, either physical or mental violence, that plunges the victim into an unfavorable situation. Not to mention when intimidation and violence make male dominance stronger through subservience, humiliation, or enslaving others. These actions lead to frustration, uncertainty, hope, and humiliation. The victim's position is subordinate to the man, be it his lover or the party who tells the story, namely the police.

It is no different with news that contains footage of several events in one upload titled "4 Cases of Prostitution in Apartments, Some Are Still 13 Years Old". Some footage raises

news pieces of sexual exploitation by peddling photos of victims on various messaging applications. A 13-year-old child, still very vulnerable, is lured into being a shop assistant. This pimp's deception shows how opportunity always arises when there are children who need work and money to live. Even though the obligation to earn a living or money for daily needs is not the child's responsibility. However, the news presented did not reveal the whereabouts of the parents of the children who were victims of this online prostitution.

Parents' existence is abolished, which means that children must be able to earn their own living to live. These children do not ask to be born but must be responsible for their own lives and others by falling into the circle of child prostitution. Like the article titled "5 Criminal Cases Involving Middle School Children, From Theft to Prostitution." The crimes that appeared in the news were not only prostitution involving 22 junior and senior high school students but also breast burglary by 14-year-old junior high school students against 18 and 15-year-old women. The robbery occurred because the perpetrator was aroused. It was not explained why the perpetrator could be aroused. However, the sentence with the word aroused is presented after the sentence when the perpetrator and the victim are driving a motor vehicle. It is illustrated that the perpetrator can carry out a breast beheading without any apparent reason.

Another case presented in the article is sexual abuse by a 15-year-old junior high school student to an older 17-year-old student. The victim was invited to a quiet place, pulled down, sat on, and covered his mouth with a mask. The victim was also beaten until she was helpless so that the perpetrator could penetrate. Another case is the murder of a 15-year-old teenager against a 6-year-old victim. The perpetrator was also a victim of sexual harassment who was 14 weeks pregnant. From the article, it is known that the cycle of prostitution arises from unpleasant acts and harassment. These actions bring or create opportunities for prostitution and other actions that result in the child's weak resilience to situations in their environment. Children who are not yet mature in thought will assume that beheading, molestation, murder, and so on are commonplace, primarily when the social system does not provide proper consequences for children.

The choice of words such as slime business, naive girl, and sex business was used in the news entitled "Child Prostitution Cases in Jakut, Pimps Find Victims with These Characteristics." The news makes children and teenagers vulnerable to online prostitution because they are trapped by lifestyle and economic pressure. It can also be seen in the news entitled "Serving Masher Men, 2 Underage Children Only Get IDR 50,000", "3 Cases of Prostitution Involving Underage Children, Fees of Up to Millions of Rupiah", "8 Women Become Victims of the Prostitution Business, Lured by Mobile Credit", "8 ABG Open BO in North Jakarta, Promised a Salary of IDR 1 Million per Week", "Online Prostitution Involving Underage Children Dismantled by Police." David Chaney (1996) conveys differences in the action pattern between one person and another as a lifestyle.

An action that a person chooses is a lifestyle that describes who he is. Hendariningrum and Susilo (2008) explain that appearance is everything in the age of lifestyle. Attention to

matters of appearance is not a new thing in history. The body, self, and everyday life become a project, the seed of sowing a lifestyle. "You are stylish then you exist!" is a phrase that may be suitable to describe the modern man's fondness for style. That is why the lifestyle industry is, to a large extent, the appearance industry. As quoted by Ratnaningtyas (2021) that lifestyle is a relatively large and profitable business field.

Lifestyle is a choice for humans. Everyone can choose and have a different or the same lifestyle as the other party. Do you want a glamorous, luxurious, all-inclusive lifestyle or just enough to be enjoyed and halal? When the choice is to choose an all-inclusive or luxurious lifestyle but is not supported by a job or a significant income, in the end, the instant way is the solution. This is also why children and teenagers are consciously trapped in online prostitution. Irwansyah (2016) sees an urge to follow or fulfill the needs of a consumptive and hedonic urban lifestyle. Like Amalia (2018), many community members are involved in prostitution due to the demands of a deviant and wrong lifestyle. Judging from the aspects of religion, morals, education, health, and so on, this lifestyle is not in accordance with social rules and is not given religious instructions. It is appropriate if the perpetrators of prostitution are considered animals in human form.

In the news "Subjected to Intense Raids, This ABG was Caught Checking Into A Hotel Using a Child's Identity Card," there was a bias in treating out-of-wedlock couples who checked in at the hotel. There are hotel guests who are not married couples but are allowed to go home, unlike the teenagers who were caught in the raid. They were taken to the Satpol PP and Firefighters headquarters. It was stated that teenagers and young women checked in using KIA and were accepted by the hotel. There is a power relation related to the consequences for teenagers who commit these indecent acts.

The news also stated that one person who was proven to have consumed methamphetamine was brought to the National Narcotics Agency. The news "Polda Sumsel Dismantles Online Prostitution Involve Underage Children and Offers Threesomes" gives the impression that pimps are here because they are needed by those who want to peddle their bodies. In the news, the text presented is seen from the perspective of pimps, who are placed as if they are not perpetrators. Online prostitution and pimping seem to exist because of the needs of the victims for the cost of living and being involved in economic needs. The text is brought to the level of justification, which becomes the truth. As seen from the news in Figure 2.

There is a shift in information in the news that the Okezone appears. From the incident of the perpetrator offering child prostitution services, it shifted to helping children who needed money. Readers are invited to see that prostitution exists because the perpetrators only intend to help victims who need economic assistance. The news seems to place the perpetrators as the injured party because they have tried to help. The victim's presence in the news also shifted to being the perpetrator because his decision led him and those who tried to help him to engage in illegal activities and were arrested by the police.

Figure 2. News snippets on Okezone

Namun, untuk anak-anak di bawah umur baru ia lakoni sejak satu bulan ke belakang. Untuk satu kali kencan, ia mematok tarif anak didiknya sebesar Rp1 juta hingga Rp1,7 juta.

\*Dari hasil sekali kencan fee saya tidak besar. Paling cukup untuk beli kuota internet,\* ujarnya saat dirilis di Subdit IV Reknata Ditreskrimum Polda Sumsel Jumat (6/8/2021)

DK mengungkapkan, dalam menjajakan anak-anaknya ia memanfaatkan aplikasi media sosial. Tak hanya satu orang, DK juga menawarkan ke konsumennya untuk layanan tiga orang alias threesome.

\*Bukan saya yang jual, mereka yang minta carikan konsumen. Kebetulan kami bertetangga," ujarnya.

Salah satu korban perdagangan BN (14), mengaku ia nekat terlibat dalam kasus prostitusi online lantaran terlilit kebutuh ekonomi. Remaja putus sekolah ini kepepet uang lalu menghubungi DK untuk dicarikan pelanggan yang mau menggunakan jasanya.

"Saya baru sekali layani pria hidung belang, saya diberi uang Rp 300 ribu," tuturnya.

Source: Okezone.com

#### **CONCLUSION**

This study, entitled Child Prostitution in the Media Vortex, seeks to see how the Okezone describes the position of children in prostitution in its reporting. It was found that the Okezone position placed children to be presented as objects to be interpreted, while the police were present as the narrator's subjects. Okezone presents the police as a subject with power or who can legitimize the truth of a reported event.

The writing style of storytelling from the police's point of view is more often displayed so that it shows that the prostitution incident was exposed because of the prominent role of the police. The news in the Okezone also shows that lifestyle and economy are the reasons why children are involved in the vortex of child prostitution. The role of the closest environment in the name of love is only camouflage that ensnares children in power relations in prostitution, as the party being told. Children are still positioned inferiorly.

Child prostitution itself also occurs because legal regulations in Indonesia are still weak. In Indonesia, no single article regulates the criminalization of people who buy sex services for children. In addition, the absence of clear elements in criminalizing child sex buyers requires law enforcement officials to try to understand all the elements in the law that regulates the sexual exploitation of children. For this reason, clear legal regulations are needed so that perpetrators or buyers of child sex services receive appropriate punishment. This is important so that child prostitution does not become an iceberg. For media institutions themselves, they can provide more space for victims and their representatives to speak. In addition, using words and language that do not place child victims at a disadvantage is vital.

Similar research can still be done by adding other media or comparing several media to analyze child prostitution. In addition, it can be done by analyzing the same issue in a more recent period. Other analytical methods, such as framing or discourse resulting

from the thoughts of other figures, can still be applied to see how the media produce news.

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