

Criminological and Victimological Analysis of the Crime of Sextortion in Video Call Sex (VCS) In the Digital Age

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Abstract : Sextortion (sexual extortion) is a crime that exploits the vulnerability of the victim through the threat of distributing material containing pornography, for certain purposes such as financial gain, sexual gratification, or even psychological domination. However, sometimes what was originally intended as a proof of trust often turns into a tool of blackmail when the relationship is in conflict. So that victims are usually forced to do things that the victim does not want, but the perpetrator wants. Along with the development of ITE and the increasing use of digital applications, the crime of Sextortion is increasingly massive in video call sex (VCS), where men who are educated, intellectual, and have prominent positions become objects of sexual extortion. This article critically examines the root causes of various factors behind the occurrence of sextortion crimes on social media platforms?; and what is a holistic approach to address the driving factors for the crime of sextortion? This type of research is empirical juridical, by examining the applicable positive legal norms and their implementation in community practice. Data is collected through document studies and in-depth interviews as the primary information collection techniques. This article emphasizes the importance of comprehensive victim protection through trauma recovery services, legal assistance, and public education about digital security. A multidisciplinary approach that is on the side of victims is a crucial step in building a criminal justice system that is responsive to sexual crimes in the digital age.

Keywords : Sextortion; Social Media; Criminology; Victimology

I. INTRODUCTION

This article identifies one of the crimes in cybercrime, namely the crime of Sextortion (sexual extortion), from the perspective of criminology and victimology. The discussion of this crime is urgent because the perpetrators of sextortion on social media exploiting. The victim is increasingly becoming a problem. Victims of Sextortion not only experience adverse social and economic impacts, but also experience prolonged psychological disorders.



Sextortion itself is a form of cybercrime, where the perpetrator threatens to disseminate explicit personal material or information, either obtained by coercion or through prior consent, for certain purposes such as financial gain, sexual satisfaction, or even psychological domination. According to the author, the mode of Sextortion is very varied, including: 1) hacking of the personal data of the exploitation target; 2) the perpetrator disguises himself as a peer/same interest (catfishing); 3) the existence of perpetrators who give excessive praise to build trust (love bombing) to the target, to; 4) the perpetrator offers a modeling/artist job on the condition that he sends the target a vulgar photo. Once the perpetrator obtains intimate material, the perpetrator has significant psychological leverage to control and manipulate the victim.

Intimate material obtained through the practice of video call sex (VCS), was originally intended as proof of love, but in the end it often turns into a tool of extortion when the dating relationship experiences conflict. Victims are often forced to do things that the victim does not want but wants by their partner, both material and non-material. The phenomenon of sextortion does not only occur among ordinary people, but also affects public figures. One example that has captured public attention is the case of Audrey Davis, the daughter of musician David Bayu Naif. Audrey Davis became a victim of digital sexual blackmail after the perpetrator obtained and threatened to spread her personal content. This case confirms that anyone can be a target of sextortion, regardless of social status, education, or family background. This incident also shows that the digital space has a high risk of sexual manipulation and extortion practices, so it requires serious attention from the perspective of criminal law, criminology, and victimology.

Interestingly, after the researcher's interview with a member of the Police from the West Kalimantan Police Directorate, the researcher found that in Pontianak City, the massive victims came from men who were intellectual and had high positions in an agency or in a company.¹

Table 1.
Data on Immoral Crime Cases under the Guise of Romance on Social Media 2023 to 2024

<i>No.</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of Cases</i>	<i>P21 Status</i>
1.	2023	12 Cases	12 Cases
2.	2024	7 Cases	7 Cases
3.	2025	2 Cases	0 Cases
	SUM	21 Cases	19 Cases

Data Source: West Kalimantan Police.

¹ Nungky Dwi Gayatri, “Data Sextortion Polda Kalbar” (2025), <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1VAxekmKjQCN0EnpOL38D4kXESK28DRHr>.

Based on **Table 1** above, the number of cases of sextortion crimes in Pontianak City in the period 2023 to 2025 was recorded as 21 (twenty-one) cases, with 19 (nineteen) of which have reached P-21 status to the completion stage. Where in 2023, the number of cases of sextortion crimes in Pontianak City was 12 (twelve) cases. Furthermore, in 2024, the number of cases of sextortion crimes in Pontianak City will be 7 (seven) cases handled. Meanwhile, in 2025 until May, the number of sextortion crime cases will be 2 (two) cases handled that have not yet been given P21 status. The handling of sextortion cases by the West Kalimantan Police Directorate of Criminal Investigations reflects a serious response to cybercrime that continues to grow.

The existence of regulations on sexual extortion under the guise of love does not fully guarantee effective protection for victims, as they are still faced with obstacles such as low reporting, deep-rooted stigma, and distrust of the legal system, which is considered complicated and impartial.² Opportunity theory and social control theory are used as analytical frameworks to explain the background and social determinants that drive the occurrence of sexual violence crimes.

Although regulations regarding sextortion have been regulated, law enforcement alone does not adequately explain why this crime is becoming more prevalent. Therefore, it is necessary to review from a criminological perspective to understand the causative factors behind the behavior of the perpetrator

This study uses opportunity theory and social control theory to explain the background and social determinants that drive the occurrence of sextortion crimes. If criminology highlights the perpetrator, then victimology focuses on the victim including the vulnerability and forms of victimization experienced in the case of sextortion. This is the reason why the author is interested in writing and researching in the form of an article that discusses: What are the factors that are the root causes of sextortion crimes on social media platforms? and How can a holistic approach be applied to overcome it and provide comprehensive protection for victims? The main purpose of this study is to affirm the importance of comprehensive victim protection through trauma recovery services, legal assistance, and public education about digital security.

This article complements various previous studies on **Criminal Law Policy on the Development of Sextortion Crimes in Video Call Sex (VCS) (2024)**, as written by Nila Arzaqi and Fifink Praseida Alviolita, and the **Reformulation of the Crime of Sexual Extortion (Sextortion) in Criminal Law in Indonesia (2023)** written by Zahrotul Fawaidah, as well as criticizing studies on victims of sextortion crimes that have been declared massive from women and children who written by Jordy Herry Christian, **Sextortion: Online Gender-Based Violence in the Indonesian Legal Paradigm (2020)** because in his case, the massive victims fell on the side of men who were educated, intellectuals and had a prominent position. Not only that, in looking at the problem, this article seeks to present the ideal prevention that can be considered to overcome Sextortion.

² Keisha Keisha, "Kekerasan Seksual Dan Viktimisasi Korban Perempuan: Analisis Melalui Lensa Teori Kriminologi Feminisme," *Madani Jurnal Politik Dan Sosial Kemasyarakatan* 16, no. 01 (2024): 1–14.

II. METODE PENELITIAN

This research needs to be studied using empirical juridical methods.³ Meanwhile, the empirical approach aims to obtain direct information from respondents who are victims of the crime of Sextortion in Pontianak City. Data collection technique by conducting interviews: 2 (two) victims, law enforcement officials in this case, and 2 (two) investigators from the West Kalimantan Police Directorate of Criminal Investigations.

Document studies are used as the main tool in completing the research, covering various written sources, films, photographs, and monumental works that are relevant and informative in supporting the analysis process. The author conducted an exclusive interview with the victim through the oral question-and-answer method. In this study, various types of legal materials were used, including primary, secondary, and tertiary legal materials. The analysis of legal materials used in this study is a descriptive analysis. The results of the analysis are described in the form of sentences systematically to make it easier to draw solutions that can be pursued in overcoming problems.

Legal materials are collected through library research, including journals, laws and regulations, and criminology books. The analysis was carried out through criminology and victimology theories, namely analyzing why Sextortion cases can be rampant in the context of Video Call Sex (VCS) and how the victim's experience in the Sextortion case, as well as looking at the victim's view of law enforcement against Sextortion. Through this study, this research is expected to be able to provide a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics of perpetrators and victims and provide education to overcome the crime of Sextortion in the future.

III. DISCUSSION

The Crime of Sextortion in Video Call Sex (VCS) in the Digital Age

According to **Kartono**, crime is an abstract concept that cannot be witnessed directly except through the impact or consequences it causes. From a sociological perspective, crime is understood as any form of speech, action, or behavior that brings economic, political, and socio-psychological harm to society, violates moral norms, and threatens the safety of individuals and groups of people—both those that have been regulated in positive laws and those that have not been listed in formal criminal provisions.⁴

According to **Satochid Kartanegara**, what is meant by strafbaar feit or criminal acts are: first, the existence of a violation of a legal interest (schending of krenking van een rechtsbelang); and second, acts that pose a threat or endanger the interests of the law (het gevaar brengen van een rechtsbelang). The crime that the researcher will discuss in this article is the crime of Sextortion, which is increasingly massive in the digital era

Sextortion is a combination of 2 (two) words in English: “Sexual” and “extortion”.⁵ So, it can be interpreted as a form of extortion that is carried out through

³ Soerjono Soekanto, *Pengantar Penelitian Hukum* (Jakarta: UI-Press, 2010).

⁴ Kartini Kartono, *Patologi Sosial* (Jakarta: Raja Grafindo Persada, 2005).

⁵ Anastasia Tatiana Juanita, “Sextortion, Tindak Pidana Korupsi, Serta Peluang Pengaturannya Di Indonesia,” *Transparency International Indonesia* 1 (2023): 1,

threats to hurt, humiliate, or harm the victim if the perpetrator's sexual demands are not met. In many cases, perpetrators also threaten to disseminate the victim's intimate material as a means of pressure, both for sexual and financial gain.⁶

Along with the development of the internet, there are also various negative impacts that come with it. **Roy Suryo**, an information technology expert, in his research revealed that cybercrime is prevalent in five major cities in Indonesia. This phenomenon is a serious concern because the majority of perpetrators are young people who visibly seem creative, but commit criminal acts such as stealing credit card data through the internet.⁷

The transformation of digital technology also facilitates perpetrators of sexual violence in creating new crime patterns, including through the practice of cybersex as a form of sextortion, namely, gender-based violence in the digital era through social media.⁸ These crimes can be committed through *WhatsApp*, *TikTok*, *Instagram*, and other platforms. The mode can be through: 1) hacking of the target's data; 2) the perpetrator disguises himself as a peer/same interest (catfishing); 3) the existence of perpetrators who give excessive praise to build trust (love bombing) to the target, to; 4) the perpetrator offers a modeling/artist job on the condition that he sends the target a vulgar photo. Once the perpetrator obtains intimate material, the perpetrator has significant psychological leverage to control and manipulate the victim.

Sextortion is getting more interesting, previously it was considered the object of extortion only women and children, but it turns out that men are also massive victims. Moreover, the situation of a man is already in a legal marriage bond, and it can also be because he has a high education or position and is known as a good figure in the eyes of the public. So that the man will feel very afraid if his disgrace is revealed. The victim's situation intervened, so that the victim did anything, including transferring money with a large nominal amount, to meet the demands of the perpetrator, who always cornered.

Wang's research (2024) reveals that there are characteristic differences between male and female sextortion victims. The characteristics of male sextortion victims more often involve demanding money as a ransom with threats to disseminate images or information to the victims' closest people. For example, the perpetrator created a social media group with the victim's relatives, making him depressed. In contrast, the characteristics of female sextortion victims tend to involve more dynamic manipulative techniques. For example, perpetrators use: money in exchange for nude photos of the

epository.unpar.ac.id/bitstream/handle/123456789/18628/Cover - Bab1 - 6051801165sc-p.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y.

⁶ Arianda Lastiur Paulina, "Sextortion: Bentuk Kekerasan Seksual Online Yang Memakan Banyak Korban, Tapi Payung Hukumnya Masih Lemah," 2023, <https://ijrs.or.id/2023/11/30/sextortion-bentuk-kekerasan-seksual-online-yang-memakan-banyak-korban-tapi-payung-hukumnya-masih-lemah-2/>. Pukul 15. 38 WIB.

⁷ Mas Agus Priyambodo Muhammad Anthony Aldriano, "CYBER CRIME DALAM SUDUT PANDANG HUKUM PIDANA," *Jurnal Kewarganegaraan* 6, no. Vol. 6 No. 1 Juni 2022 (2022): 2169–75, <https://journal.upy.ac.id/index.php/pkn/article/download/2947/pdf/7209>.

⁸ Sayid Muhammad Rifqi Noval, Soecipto Soecipto, and Ahmad Jamaludin, "Modus Operandi Dan Strategi Pencegahan Kejahatan Perdagangan Seksual Anak Secara Daring," *Undang: Jurnal Hukum* 5, no. 2 (December 30, 2022): 419–51, <https://doi.org/10.22437/ujh.5.2.419-451>.

victim, hacking, impersonation, and/or acquaintances as an excuse to force the victim to provide sexually explicit content.⁹

One of the massive modes used is, during dating, the man is seduced through Video Call Sex (VCS), such as being invited to masturbate together and show each other's genitals. The intimate matter was recorded and screenshotted without the victim's knowledge. Recordings and screenshots containing evidence of immoral acts between the victim and the perpetrator were used by the perpetrator to scare and threaten the victim, under the pretext that he would immediately release the intimate footage if the male victim did not give the amount of money desired by the perpetrator. Departing from the review, one example of a case that occurred in Pontianak City in West Kalimantan was the extortion experienced by a man named S (40 years old) by a woman named R.

The case began when S experienced a serious conflict in his household and then escaped by downloading a dating app, where S became acquainted with a woman named R. Their relationship initially went harmonious through online meetings and video calls on WhatsApp. However, over time, S began to notice the inconsistencies in the information provided by R, including the difference between the original appearance and the photo used. However, S still thinks positively because of R's good treatment. The situation worsens when S makes a video sex call (VCS) at R's request, where R secretly records S's activities without his knowledge. The recordings were then used by R to blackmail S, including demanding hundreds of millions of rupiah money transfers and signing investment contracts, with the threat of distributing VCS recordings. This pressure causes S to be in debt and experience fear and depression. Finally, S enlists the help of legal counsel, who advises S to remain calm and brave in the face of R's acts of extortion..¹⁰

Normatively, the crime of sextortion can be associated with some provisions in Indonesia's positive law, although the terminology of "sextortion" has not been explicitly regulated. According to the Criminal Code, elements of extortion that contain threats of violence for personal gain have been regulated in Article 368 paragraph (1), which threatens the perpetrator with a maximum prison sentence of nine years. In addition, if this crime involves the production, dissemination, or utilization of pornographic content, then the perpetrator can be charged under Article 4, paragraph (1) of Law Number 44 of 2008 concerning Pornography.

Furthermore, the Electronic Information and Transaction Law (ITE), especially Article 27B, as a result of the amendments in Law Number 1 of 2024, provides a more relevant legal basis. The article contains a prohibition against the distribution or transmission of electronic documents that contain elements of insult, defamation, or threats aimed at obtaining unlawful profits, including in the form of sexual or financial pressure. Criminal sanctions for this violation are regulated in Article 45, with a maximum penalty of six years in prison and/or a fine of up to one billion rupiah.

There is Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning the Crime of Sexual Violence (TPKS Law) that provides explicit recognition of electronic-based sexual violence. Article 14

⁹ Istiqomah Yungiana and Yayi Suryo Prabandari, "Dinamika Psikologis Korban Sekstorsi: Sebuah Kajian Literatur," *Jurnal Psikologi Forensik Indonesia* 4, no. Volume 4, Nomor 1, Tahun 2024, (Halaman 279-290) (2024): 279–90.

¹⁰ Gayatri. Ibid.,

paragraphs (1) and (2) regulate the prohibition of acts such as recording without consent, transmission of unwanted sexual content, and stalking through electronic systems for sexual purposes. If it is carried out for extortion or misleading, the perpetrator can be subject to imprisonment for up to six years and/or a maximum fine of three hundred million rupiah.

Furthermore, the aspect of personal data protection, which is often violated in sextortion cases, is also regulated in Article 67 of Law Number 27 of 2022 concerning Personal Data Protection (PDP Law). This article stipulates that the misuse of personal data for the benefit of oneself or others that harms the data subject is threatened with imprisonment of up to five years and/or a maximum fine of five billion rupiah.

Thus, although the term 'sextortion' has not been expressly regulated in a specific article, this criminal practice has been ensnared through a combination of various existing regulations, especially related to extortion, dissemination of pornographic content, defamation, digital-based sexual violence, and violations of personal data.

Sextortion Crimes Occur in Video Call Sex (VCS) in the Digital Age, From a Criminology Perspective

The term criminology was first introduced by **Paul Topinard** (1830–1911), a French anthropologist.¹¹ According to him, criminology comes from the Greek language, namely *crimen*, which means crime, and *logos*, which means science, so etymologically criminology is interpreted as the science that studies crimes or perpetrators of crimes.¹²

According to him, criminology comes from the Greek language, namely *crimen*, which means “crime”, and “*logos*”, which means science, so etymologically criminology is interpreted as the science that studies crimes or perpetrators of crimes.¹³ **Noach** explained criminology as the science that deals with evil deeds and deviant behavior, as well as the individuals involved in them.¹⁴ Meanwhile, **Walter Reckless** emphasized that criminology includes an understanding of the regularity of individuals in delinquent and criminal behavior, as well as of the workings of the criminal justice system.¹⁵ **Mr. Paul Moedigdo** added that criminology is a multidisciplinary science that discusses crime as a humanitarian issue, reflecting that criminology has not yet fully established itself as an autonomous discipline.¹⁶

According to criminological studies, there are two main categories of causes of crime. *First*, internal factors, namely factors from within the perpetrator, such as biological aspects, heredity, or deviant psychological conditions. *Second*, external factors that include the influence of the surrounding environment, family conditions, and social dynamics also

¹¹ Nungky Dwi Gayatri, “Prostitusi Online Dari Perspektif Kriminologi,” ed. Nungky Dwi Gayatri, 1st ed. (Pontianak: Fatwa Jurnal, 2019), 31.

¹² Yesmil Anwar dan Adang, *Kriminologi*, ed. Aep Gunarsa, 2nd ed. (Bandung: PT Refika Aditama, 2013).

¹³ Topo dan Eva Topo Santoso dan A. Eva Santoso, *Kriminologi* (Jakarta: PT Rajawali Press, 2001).

¹⁴ Edwin H. Sutherland dan Donald R. Cressey, *Principles of Criminology*.

¹⁵ Koleksi Skripsi, “Skripsi Sosiologi Analisa Faktor-Faktor Penyebab Prostitusi,” Diskusi Skripsi, 2012, <http://www.diskusiskripsi.com/2012/04/skripsi-sosiologi-analisa-faktor-faktor.html>. diakses 23 Juni 2025, 17.01 WIB.

¹⁶ <https://www.kompasiana.com/sebab-akibat-dan-solusi-atas-maraknya-prostitusi-oleh-bambang-nurdiansyah> diakses pada tanggal 24 Juni 2025, pukul 11.40 WIB.

shape the tendency of individuals to commit crimes.¹⁷ The phenomenon of sextortion is increasingly prevalent because advances in information technology have opened up a wider space and opportunities for perpetrators to carry out their actions anonymously, quickly, and difficult to track, thereby strengthening the potential for internet-based sexual crimes.

As is known, sextortion begins with an emotional relationship dating on social media platforms, such from *WhatsApp*, *Instagram*, *Discord*, *TikTok*, and others. Immoral practices that were originally intended only as proof of trust in dating, but in the end often turn into a tool of extortion when the dating relationship is in conflict. Victims are often forced to do things that they do not want but are forced by their partner, both materially and non-material. Interestingly, the victims came from men who were intellectual and had high positions in an agency or a company

This is proven by one of the cases of the crime of Sextortion experienced by a man named S by a foreign woman he knew through dating apps, known as R above. S is a widely known figure in contrast to R, who is an ordinary person who works as an employee in an investment company and is looking for clients. R legalized various ways, one of which was to commit sexual extortion in video call sex (VCS) against S. R started his crime by using photos of beautiful women who were not himself to lure men to be his targets.

According to **Cloward** and **Ohlin** in the Theory of Opportunity, criminal behavior arises as a result of access to or limitation of opportunities, both in living a life according to norms and in deviating from social norms. That is, crime is not only born from an individual's intentions or impulses, but also from the structural conditions that allow the behavior to be carried out.¹⁸

Therefore, in the context of sextortion practices, perpetrators take advantage of opportunities that are wide open in the digital world, such as social media, video call platforms, and messaging applications, as a means to build an initial interaction with the victim. After gaining trust, the perpetrator then encouraged the victim to share intimate content. This can be like a Video Call Sex (VCS) invitation that is recorded and screenshot without the victim's consent. The evidence of the recording was then used as a tool to commit sexual extortion. Starting from there, crime takes place because there is a real opportunity, easily accessible with a lack of supervision.

As a result, sextortion is increasingly massive because of the modern social structure characterized by increasingly wide access to technology, the anonymity of internet users, and low digital literacy, creating a structure of deviant opportunities that perpetrators use to commit sextortion. The perpetrators see that the chances of committing crimes are relatively greater than the risk of being caught, so these crimes develop systemically.

¹⁷ Gayatri, "Prostitusi Online Dari Perspektif Kriminologi." Hal 34.

¹⁸ I Wayan dan Atika Zahra Nirmala Pariarsana, "RESIDIVIS TINDAK PIDANA PENCURIAN DITINJAU DARI OCCASIONAL CRIMINAL DAN OPPORTUNITY THEORY (Studi Putusan Nomor: 47/Pid.B/2021/PN. Bil)," *IURIS NOTTILA: JURNAL ILMU HUKUM* 1, no. Dalam kasus yang terjadi di Bali tersebut pelaku dapat dikategorikan residivis karena dia telah beberapa kali melakukan perbuatan sejenis. Apabila ancaman hukuman dan penghukuman tidak memberikan dampak jera makanya perlu untuk mengetahui bagaimana (2023): 34–40, <https://ojs.ninetyjournal.com/index.php/IURIS>.

Whereas the theory of Social Control was born in the 20th century by its originator, **E.A. Ross**, a prominent American sociologist, human behavior is universally controlled by the belief system he believes in, regardless of the form of belief.¹⁹ According to him, the belief system guides human behavior. No matter what the form of the belief is, it will universally control the individual's actions.²⁰ If a person has strong social values and a supportive environment, then a person tends to behave according to the norm. On the other hand, if the belief system is weak or damaged due to an environment that is permissive to deviation, then individuals will be more likely to commit crimes. This theory departs from the assumption that humans have a natural tendency to disobey the rule of law, as well as to be driven to defy the prevailing norms. Therefore, deviant behavior is seen as a logical consequence of the failure of individuals to internalize and obey existing social rules.²¹

Travis Hirschi, in his work *Causes of Delinquency* (1969), described the concept of attachment as a form of emotional attachment in social relationships, which reflects an individual's ability to establish connections with others. When a person experiences attachment completely, they tend to suppress their ego and develop a sense of community, so that their adherence to social norms increases because he does not want to hurt the feelings of others. Conversely, if attachment is only partial, then individual obedience becomes situational—a person will only obey the rules when there is supervision, and potentially deviate when not supervised.²²

Therefore, in the practice of sextortion, the perpetrator is likely to experience weakness in all elements of social control. The perpetrator may not have strong social connections, and may not respect legal norms. The perpetrator committed sexual extortion because he did not feel morally or socially responsible for his victim. However, on the other hand, victims of sexual extortion can also be individuals who experience inequality of social control, or psychological distress that causes them to be easily deceived in manipulative online relationships.

In conclusion, the causative factors for the crime of sexual extortion through video call sex (VCS) can be divided into two categories: internal and external factors.²³ Internal factors include the intention and opportunity in the perpetrator to commit acts of sexual blackmail through video call sex (VCS), which often begins with personal desires such as manipulation to control the victim. Meanwhile, external factors include the influence of economic and environmental factors. These factors play a big role in encouraging individuals to engage in these deviant behaviors. Sexual extortion that occurs

¹⁹ Anang Priyanto, *Pengantar Kriminologi*, Universitas Terbuka, vol. 1 (Universitas Terbuka, 2010), <https://repository.ut.ac.id/3869/1/PKNI4209-M1.pdf>.

²⁰ E. A. Ross, *Social Psychology* (New York: Arno Press, 1974).

²¹ A. Fatmawati, Herningsih, & Salim, "Penyebab Terjadinya Perilaku Menyimpang 'Ngelem' Pada Siswa Di SMPN 3 Subah Kabupaten Sambas," *Jurnal Pendidikan Dan Pembelajaran Khatulistiwa* 4 (2015): 212–57, <https://doi.org/10.18/jppk.v4i12.12600>.

²² Fikri Anatra et al., "Kontrol Sosial Keluarga Dalam Upaya Mengatasi Kenakalan Remaja," *Jurnal Penelitian Dan Pengabdian Kepada Masyarakat (JPPM)* 2, no. 3 (2021): 485–98, <https://jurnal.unpad.ac.id/jppm/article/view/37834>.

²³ Rudepel Petrus Leo3 Ferdinan L. Bagaihing, Aksi Sinurat, "TINJAUAN KRIMINOLOGIS TERHADAP KEJAHATAN PORNOGRAFI MELALUI VIDEO CALL SEX (Studi Kasus Di Wilayah Hukum Kepolisian Resor Kota Kupang Kota)," *JURIHUM: Jurnal Inovasi Dan Humaniora*, 2024, 484–92.

during video call sex (VCS) involves various forms of actions that violate moral norms in society.

The Crime of Sextortion Occurs in Video Call Sex (VCS) in the Digital Age from a Victimization Perspective

Gosita stated that every crime involves two main parties who interact with each other, namely the perpetrator and the victim. Both are inseparable elements in a criminal act, because without the existence of one of the parties, criminal events will not occur. This interaction between the perpetrator and the victim is what results in the occurrence of a crime.²⁴

Victimology, as a branch of science that studies victims of crime, comes from the words “victim” (victim) and “logos” (science). In simple terms, victimology can be interpreted as the science of crime victims. In the “Crime Dictionary”, a victim is defined as an individual who has suffered physical, psychological, or loss of property, and even death due to criminal acts or attempts committed by others.²⁵

The definition of a victim is also explained in Article 1, paragraph (2) of Law Number 13 of 2006 concerning the Protection of Witnesses and Victims, which states that a victim is an individual who suffers physical, mental, or economic losses as a result of a criminal act. This definition is expanded in international declarations that a person can still be categorized as a victim even if the perpetrator has not been identified, arrested, prosecuted, or punished, and regardless of the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim.

Victimology focuses on victims, including their vulnerability, impact, and the need for social and legal protection. In sextortion cases, victims are often reluctant to report because of embarrassment, fear of social stigma and threats from the perpetrator. This condition makes the victim experience double victimization, in addition to suffering from the act of persecuting, the victim is also vulnerable to being blamed by the community.

Meanwhile, according to **Mendelsohn**, a victimology figure, classifies victims based on the level of their guilt into 6 (six) types, namely, *First*, Victims who are completely innocent, for example deceived by perpetrators disguised as close people; *Second*, victims with minor mistakes due to ignorance, such as not being aware of the risks when engaging in online sexual activities; *Third*, the victim's fault is the same as the perpetrator's, this is if the victim knowingly and deliberately engages in sexual activity online with an unknown person and even exchanges intimate content; *Fourth*, the victim is more guilty than the perpetrator if the victim inadvertently triggers, provokes and initiates actions that lead to crimes such as if the victim of sextortion tempts the perpetrator to do intimate things; *Fifth*, the Victim is fully responsible for the situation that befell him; and *Sixth*, imaginative victims, who feel they are victims even though they have not experienced real harm. The term “victim” in the context of victimology also includes family members or people who

²⁴ Ronaldi, Yuni Kartika (Fakultas Hukum, Universitas Palangka Raya, “Tinjauan Viktimologi Terhadap Korban Tindak Pidana Pemerasan Dengan Modus Video Call Sex (VCS) Di Kota Palangka Raya,” *Morality: Jurnal Ilmu Hukum* 10, no. Vol 10 No 2 (2024): Morality: Jurnal Ilmu Hukum (2024): 156–67, <https://doi.org/http://dx.doi.org/10.52947/morality.v10i1.530>.

²⁵ Mardjono Reksodiputro, *Kriminologi Dan Sistem Peradilan Pidana*, 2nd ed. (Jakarta: Pusat Pelayanan Keadilan dan Pengabdian Hukum, 1994).

have suffered losses because they are trying to help the victim, for example in prevention or victimization interventions.²⁶

Sellin and **Wolfgang** divide victims into four categories: (1) primary victimization, i.e. individual victims; (2) secondary victimization such as legal entities or institutions; (3) tertiary victimization, namely victims of the wider community; and (4) indirect victims, such as consumers who are deceived in goods or services transactions.²⁷

Sextortion as a form of digital sexual violence has different characteristics from regular blackmail. Not only is it materially harmful, but sextortion also causes deep psychological impacts and social stigma that aggravate the burden of victims.²⁸

Participating victims are individuals who do not directly provoke the perpetrator, but without realizing it, their behavior or attitude provides an opportunity for the perpetrator to commit a crime. This is often found in interpersonal relationships that are dependent, for example in long-term dating relationships that create emotional closeness and dependence on the perpetrator. Dependence in dating relationships usually occurs in relationships that have been established for a long time, so that an intimate relationship arises between men and women.²⁹

Victimization refers to the process of suffering experienced by the victim, both as a result of criminal acts and other forms of violence. Victimization is an integral part of the study of victimology and covers various dimensions of suffering, both physical, psychological, social, and economic.³⁰ According to **J.E Sahetapy**, victimization includes suffering caused by the actions of individuals, groups, certain communities, and even by the state, so that victims are not only limited to individuals but can include groups of the wider community who experience losses holistically.³¹

Victimization in the case of sextortion that befell S is, first, in the form of psychological trauma, shame, anxiety disorders, which are direct suffering by the victim. Second, it often appears when the victim reports the case to law enforcement officials and actually does not get adequate protection, or is even stigmatized, making S comply with the orders given by R even though it results in S being involved in a large debt in the Bank so that his disgrace is not exposed; Third, the spread of sexual content in the form of video call sex (VCS) recordings also has the potential to have a wider impact. S's biggest fear is not only about the damage to his image, but also about the social risks that can befall his nuclear family, close relatives, and his social environment. It was this consideration that prompted S not to let the situation drag on and finally chose to seek legal help. Through the assistance of a legal advisor, S is directed to: 1) Remain calm and

²⁶ Tim Newburn, *Criminology* (Cullompton: Devon : Willan Publishing, 2007).

²⁷ Sellin & Wolfgang, *Kajian Terhadap Hak Korban Atas Restitusi Kompensasi Dan Rehabilitasi* (Jakarta: Elsam, 2001).

²⁸ Desi Ratnasari, Deizen D. Rompas, and Herry F. D. Tuwaidan, "No Title Perlindungan Hukum Terhadap Korban Pemerasan Dalam Kasus Vidio Call Seks Berdasarkan Undang Undang ITE," *Lex Administratum* 13, no. Vol. 13 No. 1 (2025): *Lex Administratum* (2025): 1–12, <https://ejournal.unsrat.ac.id/v3/index.php/administratum/issue/view/3930>.

²⁹ Yuyu Mederlin Nenotek, Aksi Sinurat, and Heryanto Amalo, "Tinjauan Victimologis Tentang Peranan Korban Terkait Terjadinya Pengancaman Dan Penyebaran Video Call Sex Dalam Hubungan Berpacaran," *Desentralisasi: Jurnal Hukum, Kebijakan Publik, Dan Pemerintahan* 1, no. 4 (November 4, 2024): 192–99, <https://doi.org/10.62383/desentralisasi.v1i4.267>.

³⁰ Sopacua Margie, "Viktifikasi Dalam Proses Peradilan Pidana (Studi Kasus Perkosaan)," *Sasi* 21 (2015): 14.

³¹ J. E. Saheapy, *Viktimologi Sebuah Bunga Rampai* (Jakarta: Pustaka Sinar Harapan, 1987).

not panic in the face of pressure from R; 2) No longer respond to threats made by R through social media or private messages; 3) Stop all forms of communication with the perpetrator to prevent further manipulation attempts; 4) Immediately prepare legal steps in the form of a report to law enforcement officials so that the perpetrators can be held criminally accountable.

Through a proper legal approach and awareness of her rights as a victim, S ultimately had the courage to fight against the practice of extortion and the threat of spreading such intimate content. This shows that protection for victims of sextortion has not been maximized, both from a legal, psychological, and social perspective. Many victims are reluctant to report for fear of being humiliated or not trusted.

Therefore, the state through related institutions such as victim service institutions, forensic psychologists, and safe houses, must provide trauma recovery services that are professional and easily accessible to victims. This recovery includes counseling, psychological therapy, and assistance during the legal process, so that victims do not experience victimization or further pressure during the settlement of the case.

In addition, law enforcement officials also have an important role in massively educating the public about the dangers of sextortion and how to protect themselves in the digital space. Digital education can no longer be done conventionally. It must be transformed into a collective movement that is disseminated through various channels—social media, webinars, classrooms in schools and campuses—and collaborate with public figures and digital influencers who are close to the younger generation. The goal is not just to inform, but to build critical awareness of the importance of maintaining digital privacy, recognizing the danger signals of cybercrime, and understanding that every individual has the right to be protected when they are a victim. Education-based prevention is an important part of the state's efforts to build a fair and victim-friendly legal protection system.

IV. CONCLUSION

This article concludes that, *First*, sextortion is a complex form of digital-based sexual crime, in which the perpetrator uses the victim's intimate material as a tool to carry out extortion and psychological pressure. Although it has not been explicitly regulated in Indonesian law, the practice of sextortion can be charged through various existing legal provisions, such as the Criminal Code, the Pornography Law, the ITE Law, the TPKS Law, and the PDP Law.

Second, from a criminological perspective, these crimes are not only rooted in the individual intentions of the perpetrators but are also influenced by digital social structures that provide many opportunities for deviation, as well as weak social controls. The Theory of Opportunity and the Theory of Social Control explain that perpetrators use cyberspace to establish manipulative relationships, while victims often fall into traps due to vulnerable psychological and social conditions.

Third, victimology plays an important role in analyzing the victim's profile and vulnerability, as well as encouraging the need for comprehensive protection, both legally, psychologically, and socially. Currently, there are still many victims of sextortion who are reluctant to report for fear of stigma and lack of trust in the legal system.

Therefore, the prevention of sextortion must be comprehensive, including strict law enforcement, increasing digital literacy, strengthening social values, and massive public education. The state must also ensure that there are trauma recovery services and legal assistance that are easily accessible to victims. A victim-centred approach is key to realizing substantive justice and building a more humane and inclusive legal system in the digital age.

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