



Optimizing the Eradication of Human Trafficking in Batam City: A Comparison of Indonesian and Singaporean Laws

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Abstract

Human Trafficking is a global issue that continues to escalate, including in Batam City, one of Indonesia's Human Trafficking hotspots. This study aims to analyze the effectiveness of combating Human Trafficking Crimes (Human Trafficking) in Batam City by comparing Indonesian and Singaporean laws. The research addresses the implementation of Indonesian laws, regulatory comparisons between the two countries, and recommendations for ideal solutions. The study employs normative and empirical legal methods with legislative, conceptual, and sociological approaches. Data were collected through literature reviews and interviews with relevant institutions in Batam. The findings reveal that although Indonesia's Law No. 21 of 2007 provides a comprehensive legal framework, its implementation faces challenges such as weak inter-agency coordination, limited support facilities, and low public legal awareness. In comparison, Singapore has more effective regulations with severe sanctions and advanced technology. Recommendations include revising specific articles in Law No. 21 of 2007, strengthening cross-sectoral coordination, enhancing victim protection facilities, providing intensive training for law enforcement officers, and applying technological support. These measures are expected to optimize the fight against Human Trafficking in Batam City.

Keywords: human trafficking, legal comparison, human trafficking eradication

I. Introduction

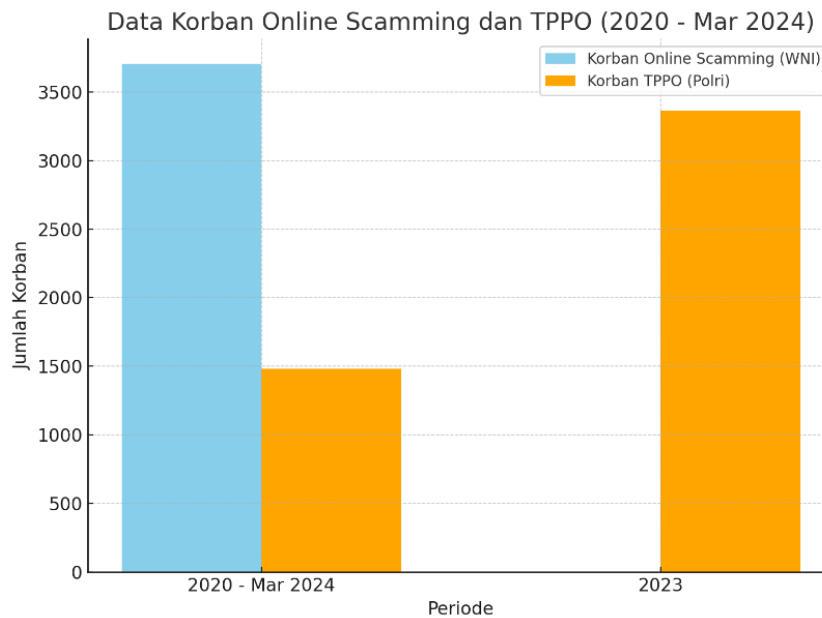
Human Trafficking is an international problem.¹ Human Trafficking offenses are always conducted behind closed doors and deviate from the law when operating.² Although the 1945 Constitution states in Article 28 that no one shall be enslaved, trafficking in persons is still an ongoing and increasing crime.³ Human Trafficking in Indonesia reflects the complexity of social problems involving human exploitation for economic or other purposes.⁴ Indonesia, with its large and diverse population and complex social structure, faces serious challenges related To Human Trafficking. Factors such as economic inequality, lack of access to education, and unstable social conditions create conditions vulnerable to the practice of such crimes.⁵ High-poverty areas, border areas, and large cities are often the sites of Human Trafficking cases due to their high economic potential and social vulnerability.⁶ Although there have been efforts from the government and various related parties to prevent and deal with Human Trafficking, legal implementation and inter-agency coordination remain a challenge. In addition, Human Trafficking has also become part of the global dimension with Human Trafficking across national borders.⁷ This embodies the regulation of trafficking in persons internationally which is recorded in several conventions including: a. International Convention for the Suppression of White Slave Traffic, 1910; b. International Convention for the Suppression of Traffic in Women and Children, 1921; c. International Convention for the Suppression of Traffic in Women of Full Age, 1933; d. International Convention for the Suppression of Traffic in Adult Women, 1933; e. International Convention for the Suppression of Traffic in Women of Full Age, 1933 1921; c. International Convention for the Suppression of Traffic in Women of Full Age, 1933; d. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women) of 1979 which has been ratified by Law No. 7 of 1984; e. Palermo Protocol (Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nation Convention Against Transnational Organization Crime) of 2000 Year 2000.⁸

Victims are usually part of the crime, as the perpetrators need other people to be victims of their crime.⁹ In other words, the victim has a functional role in the occurrence of a criminal offense.¹⁰ With serious impacts on victims, both physically and psychologically, Human Trafficking requires a holistic approach involving various parties, including the government,

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- ¹ Ismaidar And Arnovan Pratama Surbakti, "Politik Hukum Pidana Di Dalam Pelaksanaan Pemberantasan Tindak Pidana Perdagangan Orang (Human Trafficking) Di Indonesia," *Innovative: Journal Of Social Science Research* 4, No. 1 (2024): 6517-33.
 - ² Siti Rochmah And Frans Simangunsong, "Pertanggung Jawaban Pidana Terhadap Pelaku Tindak Pidana Perdagangan Orang," *Bureaucracy Journal: Indonesia Journal Of Law And Social-Political Governance* 3, No. 1 (2023), <https://doi.org/10.53363/Bureau.V3i1.177>.
 - ³ Zainab Ompu Jainah Et Al., "Analisa Hukum Tindak Pidana Perdagangan Orang (Human Trafficking)," *Innovative: Journal Of Social Science Research* 4, No. 1 (2024): 4221-32.
 - ⁴ Anggie Rizqita, Herda Putri, And Ridwan Arifin, "Perlindungan Hukum Bagi Korban Tindak Pidana Perdagangan Orang Di Indonesia (Legal Protection For Victims Of Human Trafficking Crimes In Indonesia)," *Res Judicata* 2, No. 1 (2019): 170-85, [Http://openjournal.unmuhpnk.ac.id/index.php/Rj/index](http://openjournal.unmuhpnk.ac.id/index.php/Rj/index).
 - ⁵ Triana Dewi Seroja and Ninne Zahara Silviani, "Sociology of Law and The Effectivity of ASEAN to Prevent Human Security Issues in The Region," *Southeast Asia After the Cold War* 15, no. 1 (June 27, 2020), <https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctv136c5xh>.
 - ⁶ Rizqita, Putri, And Arifin.
 - ⁷ Herlyanty And Yuliana Angraeny Bawole, "Implementasi Hukum Hak Asasi Manusia Dalam Pengaturan Pencegahan Tindak Pidana Perdagangan Orang Di Indonesia," *Lex Crimen* 11, No. 3 (2013): 97-111.
 - ⁸ Alfi Ramadania, "Penerapan Pemberian Restitusi Oleh Pelaku Bisnis Perdagangan Orang Kepada Korban Tindak Pidana Perdagangan Orang (Tppo) Di Kota Batam," *Journal Of Law And Policy Transformation* 6, No. 1 (2021).
 - ⁹ Amangeldy Khamzin, Yermek Buribayev, and Kaliya Sartayeva, "Prevention of Human Trafficking Crime: A View from Kazakhstan and Central Asian Countries," *International Journal of Criminal Justice Sciences. Criminal Justice Sciences (IJCS)-Official Journal of the South Asian Society of Criminology and Victimology* 17, no. 1 (2022): 34-53, <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4756088/IJCS>.
 - ¹⁰ Ratna Kartika, "Penerapan Asas Restitusi Sebagai Pedoman Kepastian Hukum Dalam Menyelesaikan Perkara Korban Perdagangan Orang Berdasarkan Undang-Undang Nomor 21 Tahun 2007 Tentang Pemberantasan Tindak Pidana Perdagangan Orang (Studi Kasus Perkara Berdasarkan Nomor 187/Pid.Sus/2018/Pn.Grt)," *Jurnal Hukum Media Justitia Nusantara* 10, No. 1 (2020): 124-43.

non-governmental organizations, and the general public, for the prevention, handling, and protection of victims.¹¹ The high level of Human Trafficking in Indonesia and the awareness of the importance of protecting victims of Human Trafficking as well as the need for adequate laws to effectively respond to Human Trafficking cases are also important factors so that Indonesia has a special law that expressly regulates the prevention, handling, and law enforcement of Human Trafficking.¹² The law was later realized in Law Number 21 Year 2007 as a concrete step to eradicate the crime of trafficking in persons in Indonesia.¹³ In Indonesia, there have been many cases of Human Trafficking with the patterns and strategies used by traffickers in recruiting and persuading victims, therefore Human Trafficking cases in Indonesia have become an urgency that needs to be handled seriously as well as quickly.¹⁴ Globalization today does not only occur in metropolitan areas in Indonesia but has reached rural areas which have a negative impact. Human Trafficking cases that occur in Indonesia are on average from slavery in the scope of households and female sex workers, cybercrime and exploitation of children, especially young women.¹⁵

Figure 1. Data on victims of online scamming and human trafficking offences (2020 - March 2024)



Source: Statistical data from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Based on the chart, in the period 2020 to March 2024, as many as 3,703 Indonesian citizens were victims of online scamming crimes, of which 40% (1,481 Indonesian citizens) were identified as victims of Human Trafficking. Meanwhile, in 2023, the National Police handled 1,061 cases of Human Trafficking with 3,363 victims. This data reflects that Human Trafficking related to cybercrime is a serious problem that continues to increase. Therefore, it is very important to study Human Trafficking to optimize the eradication of Human Trafficking because it involves human rights violations, exploitation, and cross-border trade. Comparing the laws of Indonesia and

¹¹ Rajwa Raidha Adudu, Marhcel R Maramis, And Diana Esther Rondonuwu, "Perlindungan Hukum Terhadap Korban Tindak Pidana Perdagangan Orang Di Indonesia," *Lex Crimen* 11, No. 3 (2022), <https://Kompaspedia.Kompas.Id/Baca/Paparan-Topik/Data->.

¹² Ramadania, "Penerapan Pemberian Restitusi Oleh Pelaku Bisnis Perdagangan Orang Kepada Korban Tindak Pidana Perdagangan Orang (Tppo) Di Kota Batam."

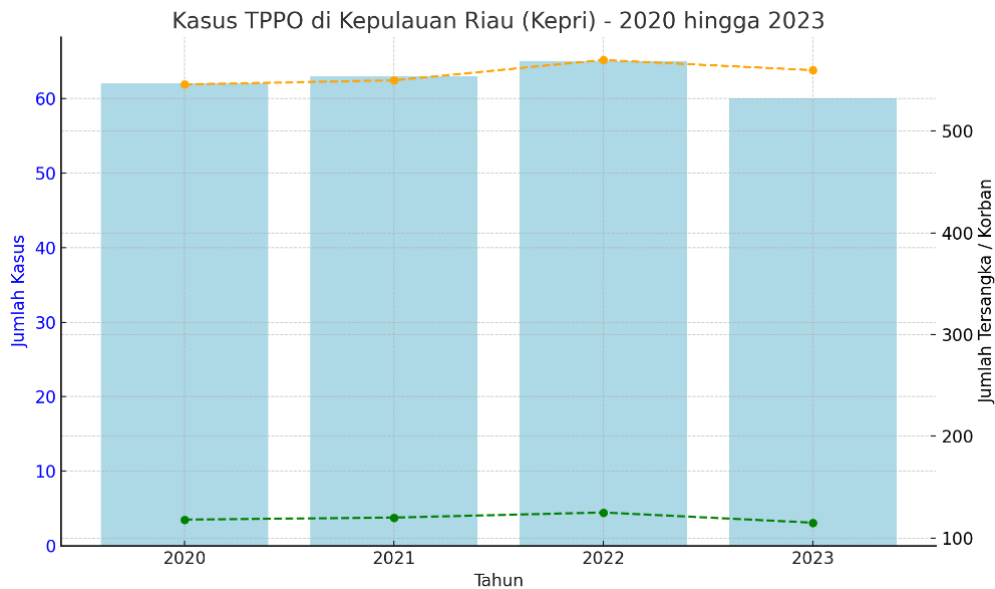
¹³ Rizqita, Putri, And Arifin, "Perlindungan Hukum Bagi Korban Tindak Pidana Perdagangan Orang Di Indonesia (Legal Protection For Victims Of Human Trafficking Crimes In Indonesia)."

¹⁴ Chandra Jeremy Sitorus, "Quo Vadis, Perlindungan Hukum Terhadap Korban Pelecehan Seksual Di Kampus," *Lex Scientia Law Review* 3, No. 1 (2019): 30-39, <https://Journal.Unnes.Ac.Id/Sju/Index.Php/Lslr/>.

¹⁵ Sitorus.

Singapore can provide a perspective on how regulations and law enforcement in both countries can complement each other to strengthen efforts to prevent and handle Human Trafficking more effectively. More specifically in Riau Islands Province, which is one of the largest contributors of migrant workers through non-procedural channels by crossing national borders through land and water routes to work so that they become victims of Human Trafficking.

Figure 2. Data on human trafficking cases in the Kepulauan Riau (Kepri) Province 2020 to 2023



Source: Criminal Investigation Agency of the Indonesian National Police

The graph depicting Human Trafficking cases in Riau Islands (Kepri) from 2020 to 2023 shows that although the number of cases is relatively stable, the number of victims remains high. Total Human Trafficking cases in the Riau Islands range from 60 to 65 cases per year, with a slight decrease in 2023. The number of suspects involved saw a slight increase from 118 people in 2020 to 125 people in 2022, although it dropped slightly in 2023 to 115 people. On the other hand, the number of victims increased from 546 in 2020 to 570 in 2022, then slightly decreased to 560 in 2023. While there was no major spike in the number of cases, the high number of victims shows that Human Trafficking, particularly with regards to illegal migrant worker placement, is still a serious problem in the region. Kepri, which is a Human Trafficking-prone area due to its border position, requires more effective interventions, both in law enforcement, inter-agency coordination, and improved facilities and support for victims.

Furthermore, some phenomena that occurred in one of the Riau Islands regions, namely the city of Batam, that on June 5 to June 21, 2023 the Head of the Batam Human Trafficking Task Force who is also the Head of the Barrelang Police, Police Commissioner Nugroho Tri Nuryanto, has revealed 3 cases of Human Trafficking. Furthermore, based on the results of in-depth interviews with one of the resource persons, namely Mr. Captain, who is a pastor, stated and testified that there was an act of Human Trafficking committed by the perpetrator with the mode of visiting the inland area in this case in the Sulawesi region, and luring work in Batam City. The perpetrator gave 7 million rupiah to some of the victim's parents as an effort to convince the victim's parents. Thus, the victim was tempted and went with the perpetrator to go to Batam City in the hope of getting a good job in Batam City. However, the reality is that upon arrival in Batam City the victims were sold into prostitution and became unpaid domestic servants. This causes a gap between the regulations of Law No. 21/2007 which has explained the prohibition of Human Trafficking comprehensively and regulated sanctions as well as fines, but in implementation there are still many challenges and cases of Human Trafficking occur in Indonesia, especially in Batam City.

In Singapore, the handling of Human Trafficking is implemented through the Prevention of Human Trafficking Act, which aims to crack down on perpetrators with severe sanctions while ensuring protection for victims. Singapore utilizes a proactive legal approach through cross-sector cooperation, including close supervision of migrant workers who are vulnerable to exploitation. These efforts set the benchmark for law enforcement, with courts delivering swift and decisive verdicts as an effective prevention and response at the regional level.¹⁶

To ensure the authenticity and originality of this research, the researcher contains several other research findings which are closely related to this research. First, research conducted by Ramadania (2020) where the results showed that trafficking business actors provide restitution to victims of Human Trafficking in the Batam City criminal justice system not in accordance with the law.¹⁷ Victims of Human Trafficking do not receive adequate legal protection, both material and immaterial.¹⁸ This is due to the fact that law enforcement at the police level have never documented restitution calculations in their official records. Second, research conducted by Akbar & Indrawan (2018), the results of the study showed the existence of significant cases of Human Trafficking in Karimun and Batam. Prevention efforts involve various government agencies and non-government organizations. The government plays an important role in coordination and protection of victims. Recommendations include cross-sector cooperation to improve anti-trafficking initiatives.¹⁹ Third, research conducted by Adudu et al (2022) found that victims of Human Trafficking must be protected in various ways according to the losses they experience, both mental and psychological.²⁰ Obstacles in legal protection for victims of Human Trafficking: Although the government has issued Law No. 21 of 2007 concerning the Eradication of Human Trafficking, the law has not been effectively implemented due to several obstacles from juridical and non-juridical elements and lack of support from facilities and facilities. Fourth, research written by Rizqita et al (2019) which found that legal protection for victims of trafficking in Indonesia faces challenges such as exploitation abroad and repatriation difficulties, victims are entitled to legal protection and restitution.²¹ Legal protection efforts continue to be made to support victims who are often traumatized. Fifth, research conducted by Susanti et al (2022) with the results of research that found that the elements of Human Trafficking in Malaysia are regulated in the Act Against Trafficking in Persons (UUAPO) Act 670, while in Indonesia it is regulated in the provisions of Law No. 21 of 2007).²²

Novelty in this research can be identified from several aspects that have not been explored in depth by previous studies. This study specifically evaluates the effectiveness of Human Trafficking eradication implementation in Batam City, in contrast to previous studies that focused more on the implementation of restitution, the role of government, or legal protection for victims. The specific geographical focus on Batam provides a more relevant and in-depth local context. In addition, the multidimensional approach to effectiveness covers various aspects such as inter-agency coordination, legal implementation, operational efficiency, and barriers faced. This research also has the potential to make comparisons with implementation elsewhere, as well as to use current empirical data and different methods, such as surveys or interviews with key actors

¹⁶ Rochmah And Simangunsong, "Pertanggung Jawaban Pidana Terhadap Pelaku Tindak Pidana Perdagangan Orang"; Adudu, Maramis, And Rondonuwu, "Perlindungan Hukum Terhadap Korban Tindak Pidana Perdagangan Orang Di Indonesia."

¹⁷ Ramadania, "Penerapan Pemberian Restitusi Oleh Pelaku Bisnis Perdagangan Orang Kepada Korban Tindak Pidana Perdagangan Orang (TPPO) Di Kota Batam."

¹⁸ Laetitia Lhomme, Siren Zhong, and Billie Du, "Demi Bride Trafficking: A Unique Trend of Human Trafficking from South-East Asia To China South-East Asia To China," *Journal of International Women's Studies* 22, no. 3 (2021): 28-39.

¹⁹ Dhani Akbar And Indrawan Indrawan, "Tinjauan Hukum Dan Peran Pemerintah Dalam Tindak Pidana Perdagangan Orang (Tppo) Di Kabupaten Karimun Dan Kota Batam," *Jurnal Selat* 5, No. 2 (August 11, 2018): 134-47, <https://doi.org/10.31629/Selat.V5i2.467>.

²⁰ Adudu, Maramis, And Rondonuwu, "Perlindungan Hukum Terhadap Korban Tindak Pidana Perdagangan Orang Di Indonesia."

²¹ Rizqita, Putri, And Arifin, "Perlindungan Hukum Bagi Korban Tindak Pidana Perdagangan Orang Di Indonesia (Legal Protection For Victims Of Human Trafficking Crimes In Indonesia)."

²² Heni Susanti, Wira Atma Hajri, And Islam Riau, "Perbandingan Aturan Hukum Tentang Tindak Pidana Perdagangan Orang Di Indonesia Dan Malaysia," *Kodifikasi* 4, No. 1 (2022), <https://Dunia.Tempo.Co/Read/1479064/A>.

in combating Human Trafficking. Thus, this research provides new perspectives that have not been revealed in previous studies. Finally, the specific and practical policy recommendations resulting from this research can be used by the government and relevant institutions in Batam to improve efforts to eradicate Human Trafficking in the future. The novelty of this research lies in its in-depth and contextual evaluation of the effectiveness of existing policies and efforts, as well as offering new insights that can be used for more effective Human Trafficking eradication strategies.

II. Research Problems

Based on the background above, the problems in this study are:

1. How is the implementation of Human Trafficking eradication in Batam City?
2. How is the legal comparison of Human Trafficking regulation in Indonesia and Singapore?
3. What is the ideal solution to the eradication of Human Trafficking in Batam City?

III. Research Methods

This research is descriptive in nature by using a mixed type of legal research, namely empirical and normative due to the characteristics of the purpose of this research is to analyze the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of the implementation of Human Trafficking eradication in Batam City and compare the legal arrangements of Human Trafficking in Indonesia and Singapore. The types of approaches used are statutory approach, conceptual approach and empris or sociological approach. The data used in this research are primary data and secondary data which are divided into primary legal materials, secondary legal materials, and tertiary legal materials. Primary data was obtained using observation techniques and in-depth interviews at police agencies, at the Office of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection, and the Office of Social Affairs & Community Empowerment while secondary data was obtained through library research collection techniques. The primary legal materials used in the research are Law Number 21 of 2007, with secondary legal materials Prevention of Human Trafficking Act and tertiary legal materials of the 1945 Constitution and Criminal Code.²³

IV. Result And Discussion

1. Implementation of Human Trafficking Eradication in Batam City

The regulation of Human Trafficking in Indonesia is within the framework of national law which is regulated through Law No. 21 of 2007²⁴. This law focuses on prevention, protection of victims, and sanctioning perpetrators of Human Trafficking. According to Laloma (2018), although the law has been drafted comprehensively, its effectiveness is still weak in implementation on the ground. Many trafficking cases continue to occur due to weak supervision and lack of resources to optimally implement this law²⁵. This problem is also influenced by inter-agency coordination that often does not work effectively, hampering the protection of victims that should be accessed quickly.

The role of local governments in handling Human Trafficking is also an important factor that is often overlooked. Research by Daniah and Apriani (2017) shows that in border areas, local governments have a central role in enforcing Human Trafficking policies, including by

²³ Dadang Sumarna And Ayyub Kadriah, "Penelitian Kualitatif Terhadap Hukum Empiris," *Jurnal Serambi Hukum* 16, No. 2 (2023): 101-13.

²⁴ Ananda Chrisna D Panjaitan, "Harmonisasi Undang-Undang Nomor 21 Tahun 2007 Tentang Pemberantasan Tindak Pidana Perdagangan Orang Dengan Protokol Palermo Dalam Perlindungan Perdagangan Orang Di Indonesia," *Yustitia* 16, no. 1 (May 2022), <https://www.cnnindonesia.com/nasional/20180423175045-12-292934/polisi-ungkap->.

²⁵ Anjelrio Laloma, "Perlindungan Hukum Terhadap Korban Tindak Pidana Perdagangan Orang Menurut Undang-Undang Nomor 21 Tahun 2007 Tentang Pemberantasan Tindak Pidana Perdagangan Orang," *Lex Crimen VII*, No. 3 (May 2018).

developing local regulations that are more contextual to local needs²⁶. Supervision of migrant workers is also a crucial issue, especially considering that they are vulnerable to trafficking. Harahap et al (2024) mentioned that supervision and protection for Indonesian workers working abroad is very important as a preventive effort against Human Trafficking²⁷. In this context, the weakness of supervision at the local level, especially in areas that are transit or exit points, puts migrant workers at higher risk. As Batam City is one of the border areas, the issue of Human Trafficking becomes even more crucial²⁸. The city is often a transit point for migrant workers who want to work in other countries, especially neighboring countries such as Singapore and Malaysia. Therefore, the risk of Human Trafficking is very high in Batam City. The Batam City Government actually has the opportunity to implement strategies to prevent Human Trafficking through local policies that strengthen migrant protection and prevent trafficking. However, as found in Daniah and Apriani's (2017) research, many local governments including Batam still need budget support and specialized training to be able to reduce the number of Human Trafficking in border areas.

Based on the existing legal framework, the implementation and effectiveness of Human Trafficking countermeasures in Batam City can be further analyzed through Soejono Soekanto's theory of legal effectiveness, which states that legal effectiveness is influenced by five factors: rule of law, law enforcers, supporting facilities, public legal awareness, and legal culture. To analyze the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of the implementation, the researcher conducted observations at 3 agencies in Batam City, namely the Batam City Office of Women's Empowerment, Child Protection, Population Control and Family Planning, Immigration Office Class I Special TPI Batam, Riau Islands Regional Police.

An interview with the Department of Women's Empowerment, Child Protection, Population Control and Family Planning or known in Indonesia by the abbreviation DP3AP2KB of Batam City revealed various efforts and challenges faced in handling Human Trafficking in this area. As an agency that focuses on prevention, DP3AP2KB has an important role in socializing the dangers of Human Trafficking, both to the general public, the younger generation, and other vulnerable groups. Nevertheless, the effectiveness of Human Trafficking countermeasures in Batam City still faces various obstacles, especially in terms of inter-agency coordination and the availability of adequate supporting facilities for victims. Based on interviews, it was found that the constraints on some of these factors make the efforts to tackle Human Trafficking in Batam not yet fully effective.

First, in terms of the rule of law, although Law No. 21 of 2007 and PERPRES No. 49 of 2023 provide a foundation for the prevention of Human Trafficking, coordination between institutions at the local level has not been optimal. Particularly in Batam, as a transit area with a high number of Human Trafficking cases, there is still a need for local regulations that more effectively support the implementation of central regulations. Second, law enforcement in Batam is also constrained by DP3AP2KB's limited role in prevention and partnerships, so coordination with law enforcement officials is often less structured, reducing the rapid response needed in handling Human Trafficking cases.

The third factor is supporting facilities. In Batam City, shelters are available for victims of Human Trafficking, but their capacity is still limited. Since Batam is a transit point, increasing the number and capacity of supporting facilities is needed so that the rehabilitation and reintegration process can run optimally. Fourth, related to community legal awareness, the Department of Women's Empowerment, Child Protection, Population Control and Family Planning

²⁶ Rahmah Daniah And Fajar Apriani, "Kebijakan Nasional Anti-Trafficking Dalam Migrasi Internasional," *Politica* 8, No. 2 (November 2017).

²⁷ Lukman Hakim Harahap Et Al., "Pengiriman Tenaga Kerja Migrain Sebagai Salah Satu Bentuk Perbudakan Modern Dari Tindak Pidana Perdagangan Orang," *Quantum Juris: Jurnal Hukum Modern* 6, No. 3 (July 2024), <https://journalpedia.com/1/index.php/jhm>.

²⁸ Santi Suwandi, "Upaya Indonesia Dalam Pencegahan Dan Pemberantasan Perdagangan Perempuan (Studi Kasus Perdagangan Perempuan Di Batam)," *Jurnal Ilmu Politik Dan Komunikasi* IV, no. II (December 2014), <http://jipsi.fisip.unikom.ac.id>.

(DP3AP2KB) has conducted various socializations, but people are still reluctant to report due to stigma and lack of understanding about Human Trafficking. This low level of awareness hampers community involvement in more effective prevention of Human Trafficking.

Lastly, in terms of legal culture, many Batam residents still think that it is normal to seek employment outside the region without legal procedures, so the risk of being trapped in Human Trafficking is high. Therefore, efforts are needed to build a supportive legal culture, so that people are more cautious in accepting job offers without official procedures.

The effectiveness of Human Trafficking countermeasures in Batam through Immigration can be analyzed using Soejono Soekanto's theory, which emphasizes various factors that contribute to legal effectiveness. Based on interviews, the efforts of Immigration in Batam have shown a number of initiatives in detecting and preventing potential cases of Human Trafficking, but challenges in each factor still limit optimal results. First, Indonesia's laws on Human Trafficking are quite comprehensive with Law No. 21/2007, which aims to provide protection to victims and prevention as well as sanctions to perpetrators. However, Batam Immigration faces obstacles in harmonizing the central regulation with local needs. They rely on coordination with relevant agencies such as BP2MI and the police to overcome technical problems in detecting indications of Human Trafficking at the point of departure. However, this coordination is still often hampered by overlapping authorities and bureaucratic procedures that can slow down prompt and integrated handling²⁹. Secondly, in terms of law enforcement, Immigration in Batam tries to implement strict supervision through interviews and document verification at the time of passport issuance and before the departure of prospective migrant workers. They also check for indications of fraud, for example if prospective migrants provide unclear or complicated information, as a preventive measure. However, as stated by immigration officials, it is difficult to ascertain the true intentions of departing Indonesians, as they often provide false information to cover up their true plans. In Soekanto's theory, the effectiveness of law enforcement is also influenced by public compliance and awareness of the law itself. This low level of compliance with legal procedures hampers the effectiveness of Human Trafficking prevention carried out by Batam Immigration³⁰.

Third, supporting facilities such as the provision of shelters or safe houses for victims of Human Trafficking are very important in supporting the recovery and protection of victims. However, these facilities are still limited in Batam, even though the area is a major transit area prone to Human Trafficking. Batam Immigration also cooperates with NGOs, such as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and IOM, to strengthen the capacity of recovery services for victims, but this limitation remains a major obstacle. In addition, the *Desa Binaan* program organized by immigration as part of education and counseling in pockets of migrant workers is one of the efforts to encourage public awareness of the risks of Human Trafficking. Fourth, the low level of public legal awareness is still a major challenge in prevention efforts, because the lack of understanding of the dangers of Human Trafficking makes many prospective migrants choose the faster illegal route³¹. Finally, the legal culture that develops in society also plays an important role in the effectiveness of the law. In Batam, people still tend to normalize the practice of departing without official procedures as a quick way to obtain employment abroad, despite the risks involved. This perception is a major obstacle for Batam Immigration in encouraging citizens to follow safer official procedures. In Soekanto's view, a strong legal culture - where people have an understanding and respect for the existing legal process - is crucial to ensure the effective operation of the law. Community involvement and a change in mindset are necessary for an optimal and sustainable countermeasure against Human Trafficking in Batam.

²⁹ Laloma, "Perlindungan Hukum Terhadap Korban Tindak Pidana Perdagangan Orang Menurut Undang-Undang Nomor 21 Tahun 2007 Tentang Pemberantasan Tindak Pidana Perdagangan Orang."

³⁰ Daniah And Apriani, "Kebijakan Nasional Anti-Trafficking Dalam Migrasi Internasional."

³¹ Harahap Et Al., "Pengiriman Tenaga Kerja Migrain Sebagai Salah Satu Bentuk Perbudakan Modern Dari Tindak Pidana Perdagangan Orang."

First, in terms of the law itself, Law No. 21/2007 on Human Trafficking is considered very complete, regulating in detail the protection of victims, the prosecution process, and strict sanctions. With this broad coverage, in theory the law should be able to effectively address various aspects of Human Trafficking. However, in practice, there is a mismatch between the application of these rules and the understanding and perspectives of relevant law enforcers, such as prosecutors and judges, which leads to different views and obstacles in the legal process. As a result, although the law is said to be effective in theory, its implementation is not optimal due to disagreements between parties in the justice system. In the second factor, namely law enforcement officers, the ability and competence of police officers in Batam City is still a challenge in handling Human Trafficking. Only a few officers have received special training on Human Trafficking, resulting in uneven understanding of the Human Trafficking Law among investigators. This lack of training has led to the handling of Human Trafficking cases not always being handled consistently and optimally. This condition shows the need for more intensive training so that law enforcement officers can understand all elements and offenses in the Human Trafficking Law properly, and can work more effectively in solving cases. In addition, the third factor, facilities, is also a significant obstacle in the effectiveness of handling Human Trafficking. Police in Batam City face limitations in technology that supports the investigation and evidence collection process, such as recording equipment that is sufficient to present electronic evidence without the presence of the victim in court, and digital software that supports investigations. Even for victim shelters, the police sometimes experience difficulties because the available facilities are not able to accommodate a large number of victims.

In the fourth factor, community participation, there are obstacles that arise from fear and a lack of understanding of Human Trafficking cases. This fear often stems from the relationship between the reporter or victim and the perpetrator, who is sometimes their own family. In addition, a lack of understanding of the legal implications also makes people hesitant to report, especially when they feel that the report will harm them socially or financially. This situation shows that the community needs stronger encouragement and socialization from the police and related institutions so that they can dare to report cases and support law enforcement of Human Trafficking. Finally, in terms of legal culture, the people of Batam City still show a tendency to prioritize economic aspects over compliance with the law, especially in cases related to worker exploitation. The economic culture that prioritizes the need for work causes people to ignore the dangers of Human Trafficking and prefer jobs with the risk of Human Trafficking, such as working in the field of night entertainment. Sometimes, some people even prefer to settle cases within the family because they think it is easier and less noisy, especially when the perpetrator is a close relative. This low legal awareness requires consistent efforts from the authorities in providing legal education and building a stronger culture of compliance in the community.

Based on interviews with three agencies in Batam City- DP3AP2KB, Immigration Class I Khusus TPI Batam, and Riau Islands Police-it was found that the implementation of Human Trafficking prevention and handling in Batam faces several major challenges. Although Law No. 21/2007 provides a comprehensive legal foundation, its effectiveness is still hampered by weak inter-agency coordination, limited facilities such as shelters for victims, and low public legal awareness. Each agency has a different role to play, but this is often compromised by bureaucratic constraints, budgetary limitations and a lack of specialized training for law enforcement officers. Article 57 has clearly stipulated the government's obligation to raise public awareness through counseling and education as an effort to prevent Human Trafficking. In Batam, DP3AP2KB has conducted socialization, but the level of public awareness is still low, with many prospective migrant workers still preferring the fast and high-risk illegal route. This suggests that the provisions in Article 57 require stronger implementation and innovative approaches to raise awareness in the community. Furthermore, Article 43 requires law enforcement officials to provide special protection for victims of Human Trafficking, including access to facilities for evidence collection that can support the legal process. Based on interviews with Polda Kepri, it was found that police officers in Batam suffer from limited technological facilities, such as adequate recording devices, which are essential for collecting electronic evidence in Human

Trafficking cases. These constraints hamper the effectiveness of law enforcement against perpetrators of Human Trafficking in Batam, which is an important transit area for migrant workers.

Article 58 emphasizes the importance of collaboration between government and non-government organizations in the prevention, protection, and recovery of victims. In Batam, Immigration cooperates with several international NGOs, such as UNHCR and IOM, to help provide protection for victims of Human Trafficking. However, limited facilities, especially shelters with inadequate capacity, show that this collaboration still needs further improvement to be in line with the mandate of Article 58. In terms of supervision, Article 6 regulates the prohibition of recruitment, transportation, or sending of persons for the purpose of exploitation, including trafficking in persons. The Batam Immigration Office tries to carry out strict supervision of prospective migrant workers through document verification and interviews. However, the challenge in the field is that many prospective workers provide inaccurate information to trick officers, so the implementation of Article 6 has not been maximized. This situation shows the need for closer synergy between Immigration, BP2MI, and security forces to prevent trafficking practices at the point of departure. Article 51 states that the government is obliged to implement medical, psychological, and social rehabilitation programs for victims of Human Trafficking. The interview results show that DP3AP2KB has tried to provide psychological assistance and social services for victims of Human Trafficking in Batam. However, this rehabilitation program is still limited in terms of access to adequate medical services, especially for victims who experience severe trauma due to trafficking. Not only that, the limited capacity of shelters makes this protection less than optimal. This situation indicates that the implementation of Article 51 has not been fully optimized in Batam, especially due to the limited medical facilities and psychosocial assistance available.

Overall, the implementation of various articles in Law No. 21/2007 in Batam City shows that weaknesses in coordination, limited facilities, and low public legal awareness are the main obstacles to effective implementation. Improving the capacity of facilities, expanding training for law enforcement officers, and strengthening socialization in the community are urgent measures so that every provision in this law can be optimally implemented in order to tackle Human Trafficking in vulnerable areas such as Batam City.

2. Comparative Legal Regulations on the Crime of Human Trafficking in Indonesia and Singapore

The legal comparison of the regulation on Human Trafficking (hereinafter referred to as Human Trafficking) in Indonesia and Singapore, solely there are some similarities and differences in the application of principles, namely equal rights to basic freedoms and inequality of benefits to different positions. Human Trafficking is based on international legal instruments on the prevention and eradication of Human Trafficking that apply universally as one of the sources of formal law (treaties) in the formation of regulations on Human Trafficking in each country that ratifies it has been regulated in the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (November 15, 2000) (The Main Basis of International Law on Human Trafficking) which is then complemented by 3 (three) other conventions namely the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (15 November 2000), Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (15 November 2000), and Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (31 May 2001).³²

Of the four conventions, Indonesia has ratified 3 (three) conventions, namely *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*, *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish*

³² Daniah and Apriani, "Kebijakan Nasional Anti-Trafficking Dalam Migrasi Internasional."

Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, dan Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, whereas Singapore has only ratified 2 (two) conventions, namely: *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime dan Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*³³. The grounds on which Indonesia and Singapore ratified the convention can be seen in the following table:

Table 1. Foundations of Indonesia and Singapore in Ratifying the A Quo Convention

Comparison	Statement	Reservation
Indonesia in <i>the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime</i>	No statement	" ... The Government of the Republic of Indonesia submits its reservations not to be bound by the provisions of Article 35(2) and takes the position that disputes relating to the interpretation and application of the Convention which have not been settled through the channels provided for in Paragraph (1) of that Article, may be referred to the International Court of Justice only with the consent of all Parties involved in the dispute."
Singapore in <i>United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime</i>	No statement	"By virtue of Article 35, paragraph 3 of the Convention, the Government of the Republic of Singapore does not consider itself bound by Article 35, paragraph 2 of the Convention."
Indonesia in <i>Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime</i>	"..., the Government of the Republic of Indonesia declares that the provisions of Article 5 paragraph (2) Subparagraph c of this Protocol must be implemented in compliance with the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity of a state;"	"..., the Government of the Republic of Indonesia expresses its reservations not to be bound by the provisions of Article 15(2) and takes the position that disputes relating to the interpretation and application of the Protocol which have not been able to be resolved through the channels specified in Paragraph (1) of that Article, may only be referred to the International Court of Justice only at the instance of all Parties to the dispute;"

³³ Cantry Radhatyas Kusumaningrum And Iskandar Wibawa, "Kejahatan Transnasional Perdagangan Orang (Studi Perbandingan Pengaturan Di Amerika Serikat Dan Di Indonesia)," *Action Research Literate* 8, No. 5 (May 2024), <https://Arl.Ridwaninstitute.Co.Id/Index.Php/Arl>.

<p>Singapore in <i>Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime</i></p>	<p>"The Government of the Republic of Singapore notes that nothing in this Protocol imposes an obligation on Singapore to receive or detain within its territory persons in respect of whom Singapore is under no obligation to receive or detain within its territory."</p>	<p>"By virtue of Article 15 paragraph 3 of the Protocol, the Government of the Republic of Singapore does not consider itself bound by Article 15 paragraph 2 of the Protocol."</p>
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<p>Indonesia in the <i>Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime</i></p>	<p>"..., the Government of the Republic of Indonesia submits its statement regarding the provisions of Article 6 paragraph (2) letter c, Article 9 paragraph (1) letter a, and Article 9 paragraph (2) of the Protocol [which] must be implemented in accordance with the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity of a country;"</p>	<p>"..., the Government of the Republic of Indonesia submits its reservations not to be bound by the provisions of Article 20(2) and takes the position that disputes relating to the interpretation and application of the Protocol which have not been resolved through the channels specified in Paragraph (1) of that Article, may only be referred to the International Court of Justice only with the consent of all Parties to the dispute;"</p>
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<p>Singapore in the <i>Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime</i></p>	<p>Did not ratify</p>	<p>Did not ratify</p>
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Source: Author's Analysis

In the *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*, Indonesia and Singapore expressed their reservations not to be bound by the same provisions, namely Article 35 paragraph (2), namely: "Any dispute between two or more States Parties concerning the interpretation or application of this Convention that cannot be settled through negotiation within a reasonable time shall, at the request of one of those States Parties, be submitted to arbitration. If, six months after the date of the request for arbitration, those States Parties are unable to agree on the organization of the arbitration, any one of those States Parties may refer the dispute to the International Court of Justice by request in accordance with the Statute of the Court".³⁴ The difference is that Indonesia is not bound by the provisions of the a quo relatively, meaning that Indonesia does not submit to the dispute resolution mechanism in the arbitration forum (after unsuccessful negotiations), but chooses to "directly" submit to the International Court of Justice forum (without going through the submission of dispute resolution in arbitration first); while Singapore absolutely does not bind itself to the provisions of the a quo, meaning that Singapore chooses not to submit to the dispute

³⁴ Rizqy Hardian Syaputra, "Upaya Penanggulangan Perdagangan Orang (Human Trafficking) Di Kota Bandar Lampung" (Universitas Lampung, 2023).

resolution mechanism in the arbitration forum and the International Court of Justice forum but only chooses a non-litigation dispute resolution mechanism, namely negotiations as specified in Article 35 paragraph (1) of the a quo convention.³⁵

In the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, Indonesia states that especially in overcoming internationally organized Human Trafficking crimes, each member state of the convention must comply with the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity of a country. Whereas Singapore states that all forms of Human Trafficking crimes must be overcome by complying with the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity of a country, meaning that the territorial principle in Human Trafficking law as a follow-up to the convention a quo in Singapore is stricter than Indonesia³⁶. In the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, Indonesia has the same statements and reservations as the previous 2 (two) conventions and added with 1 (one) new statement, namely, Indonesia states that Human Trafficking countermeasures carried out against a ship must pay attention to the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity of a country, meaning that all ships, including foreign ships passing through the territory of a country must be subject to the laws of that country. Singapore did not ratify the convention so Singapore is not bound by the convention (Anastasia, Sinaga, and Amaliah 2024).

Until now, Human Trafficking in Indonesia is regulated in Law No. 21 of 2007 concerning the Eradication of Human Trafficking, while Singapore is regulated in the Prevention of Human Trafficking Act 2014. The following is a comparison of the content material in the Law a quo which we have made a comparative analysis in the table below.

Table 2. Comparison of Indonesian and Singaporean Content Materials

Comparison	Law No. 21 Year 2007 on Eradication of Human Trafficking	Prevention of Human Trafficking Act 2014
Philosophical foundation (from basic norms and constitution)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Divinity, 2. Humanity, 3. Unity, 4. Consultation, 5. Social justice. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Democracy, 2. Peace, 3. Progress, 4. Justice, 5. Equality.
General content material	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Human Trafficking 2. other criminal offenses related to Human Trafficking 3. investigation prosecution and examination in court 4. protection of witnesses and victims 5. prevention and handling 6. international cooperation 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. trafficking in persons 2. law enforcement 3. victim protection and 4. assistance

³⁵ Rochmah And Simangunsong, "Pertanggung Jawaban Pidana Terhadap Pelaku Tindak Pidana Perdagangan Orang."

³⁶ Rizky Dwi Utami, "Perlindungan Hukum Pekerja Migran Indonesia Dalam Kasus Human Trafficking Oleh Kjri Johor Bahru Malaysia," *Lex Lata: Jurnal Ilmiah Ilmu Hukum*, No. 2 (May 8, 2022).

Prevention and countermeasures	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coordinate efforts to prevent and handle Human Trafficking; 2. Carry out advocacy, socialization, training, and cooperation; 3. Monitoring the progress of victim protection implementation including rehabilitation, repatriation, and social reintegration; 4. Monitoring the progress of law enforcement implementation; and 5. Carry out reporting and evaluation; 6. Law enforcement: investigation, prosecution, trial; 7. International cooperation; 8. Community participation in prevention and handling of victims. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Temporary shelter; 2. Counseling services; 3. Social support services; 4. Protection of information providers; 5. Protection of victims of trafficking in sexually exploited persons; 6. Law enforcement.
Institutions for preventing and combating Human Trafficking	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Task Force: representatives from central/regional government, law enforcement, community organizations, non-governmental organizations, professional organizations, and researchers/academics; 2. Police; 3. Prosecutor's Office; 4. Court. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Director-General of Social Welfare of Singapore; 2. Public officials appointed as labor inspectors under section 3(3) of the Employment of Foreign Workers Act 1990; 3. A public officer appointed as a supervisor under section 20(1) of the Human Organ Transplantation Act 1987; 4. Public officials designated by the Minister as law enforcement officers for the purposes of this Act. 5. Police officers and law enforcement officers; 6. Public prosecutors; 7. The court.

Source: Author's Analysis

Based on the comparative analysis that has been carried out which we have made a comparative analysis in the table below, there are several similarities between Indonesia and Singapore regarding the regulation of Human Trafficking significantly both in terms of regulation, the legal approach used to implement the regulation of Human Trafficking, namely:

Table 3. Regulatory Similarities between Indonesia and Singapore

Regulatory Equation	Indonesia	Singapore
Commitment to Combating Trafficking in Persons	Indonesia has established Law No. 21/2007 on Combating Human Trafficking as the basis for Indonesia's commitment to prevent and protect victims of Human Trafficking.	Singapore has established the Prevention of Human Trafficking Act 2015 as the basis for Singapore's commitment to prevent and protect victims of Human Trafficking.
Similarities in the Definition of Trafficking in Persons	Indonesia in Law No. 21 of 2007 defines Human Trafficking to include elements of recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons using threats, violence, deception, or abuse of power for the purpose of exploitation.	Singapore's Prevention of Human Trafficking Act 2015 defines Human Trafficking as all elements of recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons using threats, violence, deception, or abuse of power for the purpose of exploitation.
Victim Protection Approach	Indonesia in Law No. 21 of 2007 on the prevention of Human Trafficking and several regulations such as the Law on Witness and Victim Protection as a form of victim protection approach that becomes the main including providing support such as legal, psychological medical and social assistance.	Singapore in the regulation of Prevention of Human Trafficking Act 2015 has focused and emphasized on the protection of victims and not just eradicating the perpetrators of criminal acts such as providing legal assistance to victims, medical, psychological, etc.

Source: Author's Analysis

In addition to similarities, there are several differences between Indonesia and Singapore regarding the regulation of Human Trafficking significantly both in terms of regulation, the legal approach used to implement the regulation of Human Trafficking, namely:

Table 4. Differences between Indonesia and Singapore Regulations

Regulatory Equation	Indonesia	Singapore
The Power of Penalties and Sanctions	The State of Indonesia with Law No. 21 of 2007 concerning the Eradication of Human Trafficking has established a fairly severe penalty for perpetrators with a maximum imprisonment of 15 years and a fine of IDR 600 million (sanctions can be aggravated if it involves children and women).	Singapore's Prevention of Human Trafficking Act 2015 has stipulated penalties for perpetrators of Human Trafficking with 10 years' imprisonment and a fine of up to SGD 100,000 (around 1 billion), which is accompanied by 6 canings.
In Law Enforcement and	Indonesia in enforcing and implementing the prevention of Human Trafficking still has	Singapore is known for its more effective and efficient law enforcement. Law enforcement

Implementation	shortcomings that become obstacles such as weak coordination between law enforcement agencies, lack of adequate technology and lack of qualified human resources. The handling of trafficking cases in Indonesia tends to be weak and hampered by bureaucracy in the field.	officers in Singapore work with a high level of discipline and compliance and are equipped with advanced technology and qualified human resources.
Prevention and Awareness Campaign	The Government of Indonesia collaborates with non-governmental organizations and international organizations to conduct trafficking prevention awareness campaigns through education and training programs focused on communities in areas prone to high levels of trafficking.	The Singapore government conducts public awareness campaigns that have focused on the workplace and conducts strict oversight of labor recruitment agencies. This is done by the Singapore government conducting frequent inspections and strict surveillance to ensure compliance with trafficking laws.
Legal Framework Related to Labor	Legal regulations in Indonesia tend to focus on labor exploitation classified as Human Trafficking because of the large number of Indonesians who work abroad as migrant workers.	Singapore's regulations focus more on labor regulations given that Singapore is a large recipient of migrant labor. The Singapore government has strict rules regarding the recruitment and protection of labor from outside to prevent Human Trafficking.

Source: Author's Analysis

Based on the similarity analysis table, the similarity in defining Human Trafficking shows that both countries have adopted the universal concept of trafficking in persons promoted by international organizations such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). It also shows that both countries want to assert a common legal view in preventing and eradicating trafficking in persons. Both countries have a strong commitment as they are bound by international agreements such as the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children. In addition, both Indonesia and Singapore ratified the UNTOC, which encourages countries to develop domestic laws that are in line with international law. Additionally, both countries have shown a commitment to not only punishing perpetrators, but also caring for and protecting victims. This is closely linked to state obligations under international conventions, particularly the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, which emphasizes victim protection as an important part of law enforcement against Human Trafficking. These similarities also show that both countries are trying to meet international standards in dealing with victims, reflecting global pressure to combat Human Trafficking comprehensively. In terms of international cooperation, Indonesia actively engages in international cooperation through various regional and international organizations such as ASEAN and Interpol to address cross-border trafficking, and Singapore works with neighboring countries and international organizations to prevent trafficking. Singapore frequently hosts international conferences on Human Trafficking and actively participates in regional forums such as the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime. Both countries have strategic positions in the Southeast Asian region that make them targets for trafficking transit or destination. This cooperation shows that both countries realize that to address the transnational nature of Human Trafficking, domestic approaches alone are not enough. The role of

international organizations such as ASEAN in facilitating information exchange, as well as collaboration in cross-border law enforcement is also crucial.

Due to differences in legal systems, socio-economic conditions, political culture and discipline enforcement, there are also many differences. These differences can be traced to the different legal cultures and criminal justice systems in the two countries. Singapore is known to have a harsher and more effective law enforcement system, including the use of flogging, which is not recognized in Indonesia³⁷. In addition, the size of fines in Singapore reflects the country's economic standards, where high fines are more likely to be imposed due to different purchasing power. Furthermore, Singapore, with its smaller size and more centralized government system, has the ability to implement more efficient law enforcement. Indonesia, on the other hand, faces more complex geographical and bureaucratic challenges, which hinder effective law enforcement. This reflects the different structural challenges between the two countries. Another difference is in the participation of communities and non-governmental organizations, with Indonesia regulating community participation in the prevention and handling of Human Trafficking victims, through cooperation with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), local communities, and international organizations. Outreach and advocacy programs are often implemented with the help of NGOs, especially in areas prone to trafficking. While the Singapore government has community involvement in awareness campaigns, the focus is more centered on government agencies directly responsible for overseeing and handling Human Trafficking cases. Control and supervision by the government is more dominant, and NGO participation is not as great as in Indonesia. This difference indicates different approaches in engaging communities. In Indonesia, due to geographical challenges and bureaucratic complexities, the government needs support from various elements of society and NGOs to reach groups vulnerable to Human Trafficking.³⁸ On the other hand, Singapore has a more centralized and efficient government, making direct control by the government more feasible. Even so, the involvement of NGOs in Indonesia allows for a broader perspective in handling Human Trafficking, which Singapore may be able to adopt to improve early detection of Human Trafficking cases. In terms of prevention, Indonesia focuses more on awareness campaigns in trafficking-prone areas, often working with NGOs to educate communities, especially in rural areas. Singapore, on the other hand, focuses on strict surveillance of labor recruitment agencies and workplaces, given that Singapore is a destination country for many migrant workers. This difference in focus reflects the two countries' different roles in the Human Trafficking chain. Indonesia is more often the source country of trafficking, so prevention focuses on vulnerable areas, such as rural areas where communities are less informed about the risks of trafficking. Collaboration with NGOs allows for more targeted education and advocacy programs. Meanwhile, Singapore, as a destination country, focuses more on monitoring workplaces and recruitment agencies to ensure that migrant workers are not exploited.

In following up on the convention, normatively Indonesia and Singapore have fulfilled the principles of justice as set forth by John Rawls, namely equal rights to the basic freedoms of victims of Human Trafficking and inequality of benefits to different positions between victims of Human Trafficking and those who are not victims of Human Trafficking. In addition to law enforcement, Indonesia and Singapore also regulate the protection of victims of Human Trafficking in the form of temporary shelters; counseling services; social support services; protection of information providers; protection of victims of trafficking in persons who are sexually exploited; and rehabilitation, repatriation and social reintegration. In addition, Indonesia and Singapore also regulate the prevention of Human Trafficking which includes research, information dissemination and mass media campaigns and social and economic initiatives to prevent and combat trafficking in persons; in seeking to prevent such prevention the governments of Indonesia and Singapore in their regulations, cooperate with non-governmental

³⁷ Zia Ul Hak, "Penegakan Hukum Terhadap Tindak Pidana Prostitusi Di Poltresta Bareleng" (Universitas Islam Sultan Agung Semarang, 2024).

³⁸ M. Fajar Fathkan Fuadi, "Implementasi Kebijakan Perlindungan Anak Atas Eksploitasi Pekerja Anak (Studi Di Kota Semarang)" (Universitas Islam Sultan Agung Semarang, 2021).

organizations, other relevant organizations and other elements of civil society and build bilateral or multilateral cooperation, to reduce the factors that lead to the occurrence of Human Trafficking, especially against women and children, such as poverty, underdevelopment and lack of equal opportunities.

In addition, the size of fines in Singapore reflects the country's economic standards, where high fines are more likely to be imposed due to different purchasing power. Furthermore, Singapore, with its smaller size and more centralized government system, has the ability to implement more efficient law enforcement. Indonesia, on the other hand, faces more complex geographical and bureaucratic challenges, which hinder effective law enforcement. This reflects the different structural challenges between the two countries. Another difference is in the participation of communities and non-governmental organizations, with Indonesia regulating community participation in the prevention and handling of Human Trafficking victims, through cooperation with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), local communities, and international agencies. Socialization and advocacy programs are often implemented with the help of NGOs, especially in areas prone to trafficking. While the Singapore government has community involvement in awareness campaigns, the focus is more centered on the government agencies directly responsible for overseeing and dealing with Human Trafficking cases. Control and supervision by the government is more dominant, and NGO participation is not as great as in Indonesia. This difference indicates different approaches in engaging communities. In Indonesia, due to geographical challenges and bureaucratic complexities, the government needs support from various elements of society and NGOs to reach groups vulnerable to Human Trafficking.

3. Ideal Solution for Combating Human Trafficking in Batam City

Human Trafficking eradication in Batam City faces complex challenges that reflect the gap between legal norms and implementation practices (*das sollen* and *das sein*)³⁹. *Das Sollen* refers to the ideal legal norms that should be implemented, while *Das Sein* represents the reality or the actual practice of law enforcement in the field⁴⁰. By using John Rawls' theory of justice, which emphasizes the importance of fair treatment and protection of vulnerable groups, it can be evaluated that the implementation of the law in Batam City has not fully met the principles of justice⁴¹. Victims of Human Trafficking, who often come from socially and economically weak groups, have not received optimal protection⁴². In addition, the punishment of perpetrators often does not provide a sufficient deterrent effect. In fact, justice should ensure that both victims and perpetrators are treated according to their rights and obligations, with victims protected and perpetrators strictly punished according to their actions.

In the context of effectiveness, the eradication of Human Trafficking in Batam City can be analyzed through Soerjono Soekanto's theory of legal effectiveness which includes five factors: rule of law, law enforcement, supporting facilities, public legal awareness, and legal culture. Batam City, which is a border area and often a transit point for migrant workers, has a high risk of Human Trafficking cases. In terms of the rule of law, although Law No. 21/2007 provides a fairly comprehensive legal framework, implementation in the field shows weaknesses. One of the main problems is the lack of relevant local regulations to adapt the central law to the characteristics of Batam City as a transit area. This suggests the need for strengthening local regulations that are more contextualized.

In terms of law enforcement, the challenge is the lack of training and competence among law enforcement officers. Law enforcers in Batam, such as police officers, often do not receive

³⁹ Arsyad Riyadi, "Rekonstruksi Regulasi Pemenuhan Hak-Hak Korban Tindak Pidana Perdagangan Orang Yang Berbasis Nilai Keadilan" (Universitas Islam Sultan Agung, 2024).

⁴⁰ Yudhi Priyo Ambaro, *Dinamika Hukum Dalam Paradigma Das Sollen Dan Das Sein* (Malang: Inteligencia Media, 2020).

⁴¹ Riyadi, "Rekonstruksi Regulasi Pemenuhan Hak-Hak Korban Tindak Pidana Perdagangan Orang Yang Berbasis Nilai Keadilan."

⁴² Enjel Romauli Tarihoran and Alfiyah Nur Anisah, "Implementasi Hak Asasi Manusia Dalam Penegakan Hukum Tindak Pidana Perdagangan Orang," *Jurnal Motivasi Pendidikan Dan Bahasa* 2, no. 2 (2024).

specialized training on Human Trafficking, resulting in inconsistent handling of cases. In addition, coordination between agencies, including between the police, immigration, and women's empowerment organizations, has not been optimal. This is exacerbated by limited supporting facilities such as shelters for victims. Batam City, despite having several shelters, has not been able to fulfill the need for long-term rehabilitation, mainly due to limited capacity and resources.

Public awareness of the risks of Human Trafficking is also still low. Many prospective migrant workers in Batam tend to choose illegal channels due to a lack of understanding about the dangers of Human Trafficking. They are often trapped in modes such as job scams through social media or the lure of high-paying jobs. This reflects the need for more intensive educational campaigns to raise public awareness of the importance of legal and safe migration. The legal culture in Batam City also affects the effectiveness of Human Trafficking eradication. There are still many people who normalize illegal migration practices as a quick way to get a job abroad, despite the very high risks involved.

Interviews with three main institutions in Batam City revealed a significant gap between the ideal needs and available facilities for combating Human Trafficking. One of the main needs is to increase the capacity of shelters for victims. Currently, the available shelters are very limited, so many victims do not receive adequate protection. A possible solution is to establish more shelters that are integrated with medical, legal and psychological services to ensure victims' basic needs are met thoroughly. Local governments need to work with non-governmental organizations and the private sector to fund the construction of new shelters with international standards.

In addition, there is a lack of psychological services for victims, despite the importance of these services to help victims recover from trauma. A solution that can be applied is to expand access to psychological services through training counselors and psychologists who focus on trauma recovery due to Human Trafficking. A community-based approach can also be applied by building counseling centers in strategic locations that are easily accessible to victims.

On the other hand, legal officers often do not have adequate skills to handle the complexity of Human Trafficking cases. Continuous intensive training to improve the competence of legal officers should be a priority. This training can include modern investigative techniques, understanding of Human Trafficking networks, and victim-based approaches. Cooperation with international institutions that have expertise in handling Human Trafficking cases can also accelerate this capacity building.

The lack of public education campaigns is also a major challenge in preventing Human Trafficking. A solution that can be implemented is to launch a massive education program, using various media such as television, radio, social media, and local communities. This education should focus on raising awareness of the modus operandi of Human Trafficking perpetrators, how to report cases, as well as providing information on victims' rights. Community-based approaches, such as seminars in schools and places of worship, are also important to reach a wider community.

Supporting technology, such as detection and mapping tools for Human Trafficking networks, is hardly available in Batam City, even though this is very important to eradicate Human Trafficking networks. The government can adopt advanced technologies used in other countries, such as AI-based detection systems to map Human Trafficking patterns or victim identification tools at vulnerable points such as ports and airports. Procurement of these technologies requires significant investment, but can be done through public-private partnerships or grants from international institutions that support the eradication of Human Trafficking.

By adopting these solutions, Batam City can significantly improve its system for handling and preventing Human Trafficking. In addition, learning from best practices in Singapore, such as cross-sectoral approaches and strict law enforcement, can help Batam become a model in combating Human Trafficking in Indonesia. These strategic measures will not only strengthen

the effectiveness of the law, but also create a safer and more secure environment for the community. When comparing Indonesia's arrangements with Singapore, the implementation of Human Trafficking eradication in Indonesia, particularly Batam, shows significant weaknesses. Singapore has a more proactive approach through the Prevention of Human Trafficking Act, which not only provides severe sanctions to perpetrators, but also ensures strong protection for victims. Singapore's penalties include imprisonment of up to 10 years, fines of up to SGD 100,000 (±1 billion IDR), and caning. This provides a significant deterrent effect, in contrast to Indonesia's maximum sentence of 15 years and a fine of IDR 600 million, which is often considered insufficient to deter Human Trafficking perpetrators. Indonesia should consider revisions to the penalties, including an increase in the amount of fines and the application of additional sentencing mechanisms appropriate to the local context to provide a greater deterrent effect.

Furthermore, Indonesia does not currently have specific provisions related to the use of technology in detecting and preventing Human Trafficking. In contrast, Singapore has implemented a technology-based approach to policing trafficking, including electronic reporting that monitors the presence and movement of migrant workers and detects potential exploitation. This system helps reduce reliance on manual methods that are often less efficient. To increase effectiveness, Law No. 21/2007 could be revised by adding provisions related to the use of technology. Examples include the development of data-based tracking systems that are integrated across sectors, such as biometric technology to identify victims or online reporting systems that can be accessed by the public. Human Trafficking network mapping technology can be used to map Human Trafficking routes, so that law enforcement becomes more proactive.

However, its implementation has not fully addressed the needs of victims, especially in terms of gender and trauma-based approaches. In comparison, Singapore's Prevention of Human Trafficking Act (PHTA) explicitly includes the provision of psychological counseling services tailored to the specific needs of victims, such as children, women, or other vulnerable groups. Singapore also provides safe temporary housing for victims during the legal process. Indonesia could adopt gender and trauma-based programs like Singapore's to strengthen victim rehabilitation. The revised article could include the government's obligation to provide rehabilitation centers with experts specially trained to handle trauma caused by Human Trafficking, so that victims can obtain comprehensive physical and mental recovery.

In addition, in Law No. 21/2007 Article 58, the government is required to cooperate with international institutions in handling Human Trafficking. However, cross-sector coordination at the national level is still often hampered by weak institutional systems and lack of synergy between agencies. In Singapore, a special Taskforce under the PHTA is tasked with coordinating actions against Human Trafficking across various sectors, including the government, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. This structure gives executive authority to the lead agency, thus ensuring more effective coordination. Indonesia can emulate this approach by establishing a dedicated national body that has the authority to design policies, coordinate across agencies, and assess the effectiveness of programs to combat Human Trafficking. This body could also become a national information center that integrates data on victims, perpetrators, and Human Trafficking networks to support rapid response to new cases. The addition of a new article in Law No. 21/2007 could be a concrete step to strengthen coordination.

In conclusion, combating Human Trafficking requires a holistic approach that includes prevention, law enforcement, and specific needs-based victim protection. Measures that have been designed such as strengthening detection technology, trauma-based rehabilitation, and the establishment of a national coordinating body, must be implemented immediately with full support from the government and other stakeholders. In the global context, Indonesia can learn from Singapore's best practices, both in terms of more detailed policies and progressive law enforcement mechanisms. By synergizing relevant domestic regulations and adopting international policies, Indonesia, especially Batam City, can strengthen its response to Human Trafficking and provide better protection for victims while combating this crime network in a sustainable manner.

V. Conclusion

Based on research on optimizing the eradication of Human Trafficking Crimes in Batam City by comparing legal regulations in Indonesia and Singapore, it can be concluded that the implementation of Law No. 21 of 2007 in Batam City has not been effective. The main obstacles in implementing this law include weak inter-agency coordination, limited victim protection facilities, low public awareness, and the suboptimal enforcement of legal sanctions. From a legal standpoint, the absence of specific local policies to support the implementation of Law No. 21 of 2007 in border areas like Batam has hindered optimal efforts to combat human trafficking. Law enforcement officers in Batam, as stated by IPTU Yanti Harefa, S.H., M.H. from Polda Kepri, still face limited training in handling human trafficking cases, resulting in less effective law enforcement processes.

The Batam Immigration Office, represented by M. Aris Fitrah Nasution as Supervisor of TPI Batam Centre, also revealed weak supervision of prospective migrant workers and a lack of coordination between relevant agencies such as BP2MI and the police. In terms of victim protection, Deddy Suryadi, Head of UPTD PPA Batam City, stated that the available shelter facilities are still very limited and not yet integrated with psychological or medical services. Additionally, the community's legal culture, which still views illegal migration as an economic solution, worsens the risk of human trafficking.

Compared to Singapore, Indonesia lags in handling human trafficking. Singapore enforces stricter sanctions, utilizes advanced technology such as biometrics and AI, and implements effective cross-sector coordination through the establishment of a special Human Trafficking Taskforce. Moreover, victim rehabilitation services in Singapore are more integrated with gender- and trauma-based approaches, which have not been fully accommodated in Law No. 21 of 2007. Therefore, Indonesia needs to thoroughly evaluate several articles in Law No. 21 of 2007, particularly those related to prevention mechanisms, victim protection, and law enforcement. Improving the effectiveness of this law's implementation must also be supported by strengthening support facilities, providing intensive training for law enforcement officers, and conducting broader legal outreach to the public. By adopting best practices from Singapore and strengthening inter-agency synergy, it is hoped that Batam City can become a more resilient region in combating human trafficking and provide maximum protection for victims.

Suggestion

Suggestion combating to effectively combat human trafficking in Batam City, it is crucial to address the significant gap between the existing legal framework and its practical implementation. Law No. 21 of 2007 has not been effectively enforced due to weak inter-agency coordination, inadequate support facilities, and low public legal awareness. Compared to Singapore, which enforces the Prevention of Human Trafficking Act 2014 with strict sanctions, advanced technology, and effective coordination, Indonesia faces bureaucratic inefficiencies, limited technological support, and insufficient training for law enforcement. Therefore, adopting Singapore's best practices is essential, especially in technology integration for early detection and enforcing stricter penalties.

1. For the Central Government.
 - a. Revise Law No. 21 of 2007 to include the mandatory use of advanced technology for detecting and reporting human trafficking, stricter criminal sanctions, and comprehensive victim rehabilitation focusing on trauma recovery and gender sensitivity.
 - b. Establish a specialized national agency dedicated to coordinating anti-human trafficking efforts across ministries, law enforcement, and NGOs to ensure a unified and effective response.
2. For the Batam City Government.

- a. Implement regional regulations that align with national laws to address Batam's specific vulnerabilities to human trafficking.
 - b. Expand and improve victim shelters with integrated medical, psychological, and legal support services to provide holistic recovery for victims.
3. For Law Enforcement (Police and Immigration).
- a. Conduct regular and intensive training for police officers and immigration officials to improve their capabilities in identifying, investigating, and prosecuting human trafficking cases.
 - b. Strengthen inter-agency coordination to ensure efficient and prompt handling of cases by fostering collaboration between law enforcement, immigration, and victim support services.
4. For Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).
- a. Intensify outreach programs in high-risk communities to raise awareness about human trafficking dangers and prevention strategies.
 - b. Partner with government bodies to deliver specialized trauma-informed psychological and social rehabilitation services for victims.

By implementing these targeted and actionable recommendations, Batam City can significantly strengthen its efforts to eradicate human trafficking. Legal reforms, institutional capacity building, and enhanced cross-sector collaboration will establish a more responsive and just legal system, providing maximum protection for victims and dismantling human trafficking networks.

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