ABSTRACT

***THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE REHABILITATION PROGRAM FOR WAIF IN SOUTH* SULAWESI *PROVINCE (A CASE STUDY ON BASIC SOCIAL REHABILITATION OF WAIF IN* PANTI UPT, PPRSA INANG MATUTU, MAKASSAR**

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Waif is a group that is vulnerable to violence, exploitation, and behavioral deviations due to unmet basic physical, mental, and social needs. In South Sulawesi *Province, the number of abandoned children is still high, up to 19,240 children, with the greatest concentration in* Takalar *Regency. This phenomenon is also found in urban areas, such as* Makassar *City, through the increase of street children, beggars, and buskers, as well as the high cases of violence against children. Various efforts by the government have been undertaken, including local regulations and control operations. However, these efforts have not significantly reduced the number of waifs. This study aims to analyze the condition of waifs and evaluate the effectiveness of social rehabilitation programs in this area.*

This study used a descriptive qualitative approach, with data collection techniques through interviews, observations, and documentation. The informants in this study included Social Service officials, social workers, and parents/guardians of beneficiary children.

The results of the study show that the handling of waif requires a comprehensive strategy, including coaching, psychosocial assistance, and periodic program evaluation, so that children's rights are fulfilled and they can grow and develop optimally. In addition, this study reveals that the social rehabilitation program at UPT PPRSA Inang Matutu *has run quite effectively in terms of improving children's psychology, social skills, and education. Children receive services to meet basic needs, therapy, social guidance, and character development through structured daily activities. However, obstacles remain that hinder the effectiveness of the program, including limited facilities (especially the absence of dormitories), a reduction in budget allocation, limited professional personnel, and a lack of participation from the community.*

Keywords: Program Effectiveness, Social Rehabilitation, Waif

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