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## The Effect of Technology on Trafficking in Persons After the Covid-19 Pandemic

### Dampak Teknologi Terhadap Kejahatan Perdagangan Orang Pasca Pandemi Covid-19

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##### Abstract

*The purpose of this research is to know and understand the implementation of law enforcement against the Crime of Trafficking in Persons, as well as how the influence of digitalization in carrying out law enforcement against the Crime of Trafficking in Persons in the Riau Regional Police (Riau Regional Police). The method used in this research is empirical legal research by conducting research on the role of the Riau Regional Police (Riau Regional Police) in law enforcement, with data collection tools, namely interviews. The nature of this research is descriptive in nature, that is, it provides a clearer picture by revealing the problems and conditions as they are. From the results of the research it is known that the Crime of Trafficking in Persons is a type of crime that is worrying in Riau Province, dominated by the mode of illegal migrant workers. Riau Province is used by trafficking syndicates to serve as a transit area before sending victims to their destination, namely Malaysia. The Riau Regional Police (Polda Riau) as a law enforcement agency carries out its duties in prevention, law enforcement and countermeasures. The influence of digitalization on law enforcement on trafficking in persons has made this crime more prevalent with a more sophisticated modus operandi.*

**Keywords:** Trafficking in Persons, Digitalization, Post Pandemic Covid 19

##### Abstrak

Tujuan penelitian ini adalah mengetahui dan memahami pelaksanaan penegakan hukum terhadap Tindak Pidana Perdagangan Orang, serta bagaimana pengaruh digitalisasi dalam melaksanakan penegakan hukum terhadap Tindak Pidana Perdagangan Orang di Kepolisian Daerah Riau (Polda Riau). Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah penelitian hukum empiris atau *empirical legal research* dengan melakukan penelitian terhadap peranan Kepolisian Daerah Riau (Polda Riau) dalam penegakan hukum, dengan alat pengumpulan data yaitu wawancara. Sifat

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penelitian ini adalah bersifat deskriptif, yaitu memberikan gambaran lebih jelas dengan mengungkapkan masalah dan keadaan sebagaimana adanya. Dari hasil penelitian diketahui bahwasanya Tindak Pidana Perdagangan Orang merupakan jenis tindak pidana yang mengkhawatirkan di Provinsi Riau, didominasi dengan modus pekerja migran ilegal. Provinsi Riau digunakan sindikat perdagangan orang untuk dijadikan sebagai daerah transit sebelum memberangkatkan korban ke daerah tujuan, yaitu Malaysia. Kepolisian Daerah Riau (Polda Riau) sebagai lembaga penegak hukum menjalankan tugasnya dalam upaya pencegahan, penegakan hukum dan penanggulangan. Adnya pengaruh digitalisasi terhadap penegakan hukum perdagangan orang menjadikan kejahatan ini semakin marak terjadi dengan modus operandi yang lebih canggih.

**Kata kunci** : Perdagangan Orang, Digitalisasi, Pasca Pandemi Covid 19

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## 1. Introduction

The amazing development of science and technology has brought many benefits to the advancement of human civilization. Types of work that previously required considerable physical abilities can now be replaced with sophisticated devices. Indirectly, the emergence of digital technology as a result of the development of science and technology is in fact capable of shifting the position of the human brain in various fields of science and human activity itself. However, apart from having a very beneficial effect, the development of digital information technology also has a negative impact that is often not realized. With the existence of digital information technology, it is able to change the order of people's lives in all fields, and is also able to make everyone dependent on digital information technology. Society's dependence on digital information technology continues to increase and also results in an increase in these risks (Raodia, 2005). All aspects of life are highly dependent on the use of digital information technology, so it cannot be denied that there is also misuse of the function of digital information technology. This abuse can take the form of a crime.

Crime is not a new problem in people's lives or for the law itself. However, the development of digital information technology will result in the modernization of crime in society. Crime in the digital sphere, of course, occurs by using the internet network facility, and this crime is often referred to as cybercrime that occurs in cyberspace. Of course, this crime must receive special attention because crime by utilizing the development of digital information technology is the worst impact of the development of a more modern life in technological progress.

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought digital information technology to the first place in all aspects of people's lives. Limitations caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic have resulted in the use of digital information technology being the only way out to solve various things in a difficult situation. The prohibition to meet face to face and interact at close range has made interaction in the network (online) a necessity during the Covid-19 Pandemic. People's social life has changed drastically along with the development of the Covid-19 Pandemic. The changing social conditions of society also result in changing patterns of human behavior. Difficulties during the

Covid-19 Pandemic also had an impact on the community's economic situation which experienced a decline. The wave of layoffs (PHK) led to an increase in the unemployment rate and a sudden increase in the poverty rate. The sudden increase in the unemployment rate and poverty rate also has an impact on the increase in the crime rate. Many crimes occur that are driven by the need for human life to meet their daily needs. Humans who experience a decline in their ability to meet their daily needs result in the thought of committing a crime which of course can be profitable to meet their daily needs. And the use of digital technology facilities is becoming a trend in committing crimes.

One type of crime that has increased as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic is the crime of trafficking in persons. As is known, human trafficking is also a type of crime that continues to grow rapidly along with the times. Trafficking in persons is a modern form of human slavery which is also one of the worst forms of treatment against human dignity. Trafficking in persons is categorized as a violation of human rights (HAM). The object of human trafficking is of course human, but in the early development of human trafficking, the object of human trafficking was women.

The crime of trafficking in persons in Riau Province is not a new phenomenon. Of all the forms of trafficking in persons that exist, the crimes of trafficking in persons that occurred in Riau Province mostly occurred in the form of sending illegal migrant workers and also commercial sex workers (PSK) with the massage parlor mode which ranks next. Riau Province occupies a strategic role in terms of the practice of trafficking in persons. The geographical conditions of the Riau Province have resulted in the Riau Province often being a transit area for the practice of trafficking in persons.

Today, Indonesia is one of the largest sending countries for Migrant Workers (Migrant Workers) in Asia. Sending Migrant Workers is generally carried out in various ways, both legal and illegal. Illegal shipments are always associated with slavery, which is a form of trafficking in persons which is a widespread crime that poses a threat to society, the nation and the state as well as to the norms of life based on respect for human rights (HAM). The phenomenon of the crime of trafficking in persons is followed by the occurrence of various acts of threats of violence and violence which cause torture to victims. This will ultimately affect the physical and psychological condition of the victim (Henny Nuraeny, 2015).

There were 11 cases of trafficking in persons that occurred in Riau Province which were handled by the Riau Regional Police (Riau Regional Police), of which 5 cases occurred in 2020 and 6 other cases occurred in 2021. There was an increase of one case in the 2020 period. until 2021. Of the 11 cases, all occurred in the form of sending illegal migrant workers outside the Riau Province by crossing the boundaries of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (NKRI). If you look at the comparison of data on cases of trafficking in persons with the mode of illegal migrant workers, then BP3MI Riau has data on 31 cases with details, 6 cases occurred in 2020 and 25 cases occurred in 2021. BP3MI Riau uses the term Non-Procedural Indonesian Migrant Workers (PMI Non-Procedural) to refer to migrant workers who are sent illegally in the practice of trafficking in persons. It can be seen that there has been a spike in the increase in Non-Procedural PMI cases in the period 2020 to 2021.

Traffickers recruit victims in various ways, including the lure of high-paying jobs. Perpetrators can recruit by directly contacting potential victims and can also recruit in an organized manner within organized group networks or trafficking syndicates. Either using a simple method to using a more complex method. In fact, they even take advantage of advanced technology by placing advertisements on the internet (Eddy Surya Siregar, 2022).

It is undeniable that the increase in cases of trafficking in persons with the mode of illegal migrant workers occurring from 2020 to 2021 cannot be denied is also caused by the situation after the Covid-19 Pandemic. These years are the range of years that are prone to an increase in the number of crime cases. This is certainly caused by meeting the needs of people's lives which must be done even in difficult situations. This increase is certainly not far from the existence of an economic situation that is experiencing difficulties as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic itself. The space for people to move is limited and constrained to make the poverty rate increase. Where it is known that, poverty is a basic standard of the factors that cause trafficking in persons. Economic difficulties faced with the lure of high-paying jobs often make people tempted by offers made by trafficking agents.

These conditions prove that there is an economic transition, increasing levels of social inequality, as well as demands for jobs due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. This is the strongest reason for the existence of human trafficking. Technological progress and activeness have contributed to the occurrence of trafficking in persons, one of which is the problem of online-based migrant workers. Illegal syndicate patterns that include recruiting, distributing, transferring, harboring or receiving workers accompanied by threats in the form of kidnapping, acts of deception, abuse of power, including offering wages that were previously carried out manually, now all of these actions are carried out using social media facilities. Therefore, digitalization is very influential in the development of methods for carrying out crimes, especially supported by post-pandemic conditions which are very detrimental to society (Elyta, 2022).

Along with the dynamics of societal development and the quantity of crimes of trafficking in persons which are increasingly complex, Indonesia has finally reformed these regulations by creating special regulations as a legal umbrella for the crime of trafficking in persons in Indonesia (Heni Susanti, 2022). The government's seriousness in dealing with the problem of trafficking in persons is proven through the enactment of Law no. 21 of 2007 concerning the Eradication of the Crime of Trafficking in Persons (PTPPO).

Trafficking in persons is regulated in Law no. 21 of 2007 concerning the Eradication of the Crime of Trafficking in Persons. Article 1 point 1 states that trafficking in persons is the act of recruiting, transporting, harboring, sending, transferring or receiving a person with threats of violence, use of force, kidnapping, confinement, counterfeiting, fraud, abuse of power or a vulnerable position, debt bondage or giving payments or benefits, so as to obtain the consent of the person who has control over the other person, whether done within the country or between countries, for the purpose of exploitation or causing people to be exploited.

Based on the understanding given by Law no. 21 of 2007 concerning the Eradication of the Crime of Trafficking in Persons, there are at least four elements that can be classified as follows (Paul SinlaEloE, 2017):

Actors, i.e. every person, individual or corporation (Article 1 number 4).

Process/action elements, namely various sequences of implementation processes consisting of recruiting, transporting, holding, sending, transferring or accepting a person (Article 1).

Elements of method/modus, namely the form of action/action to ensure the implementation of the crime, including threats of violence, use of violence, kidnapping, confinement, forgery, fraud, abuse of power or position of vulnerability, debt bondage or giving payments or benefits (Article 1) .

The objective/effect element, namely the thing to be achieved or realized in the criminal activity committed, that goal is exploitation (Article 1 point 7 and Article 1 point 8).

In general, there are factors behind the crime of trafficking in persons. These factors can be (Bastianto Nugroho, 2017):

1. The poverty factor

The problem of poverty in Indonesia is a social phenomenon which until now has been very difficult to deal with. There is no concrete solution that can address the problem of poverty in Indonesia. Poverty is no longer a new problem in Indonesia. This is part of the complex problems that exist in this country. Many things are the factors that cause poverty, such as the lack of employment opportunities, the lack of public knowledge and insight into the world of work and the business world, as well as internal factors that result in inequality between income and expenditure. Trafficking in Persons and poverty are closely related. The perpetrators will target the victim's economic motives with tempting lures. For example given a job with high salaries and complete facilities.

2. Low Level of Education

Education plays an important role in people's lives. Education can make a person have knowledge and gain broad insights. The problem of education is also not a new problem for the State of Indonesia, but the problem of education is not separated from what is called poverty. Poverty will make it difficult for someone to get an education. Therefore, there is a strong correlation between education and poverty, so that it can be said that these two things are the basis of all the factors that cause the existing Crime of Trafficking in Persons.

3. Forced by Violence

This is one of the causal factors that make victims become intimidated. Treatment that tends to be openly anarchist and coercion to carry out orders given by the perpetrator will give a psychological burden attached to the victim.

Apart from the underlying factors, human trafficking is also divided into several forms. The forms of trafficking in persons are not limited to exploitation, but there are more detailed forms of trafficking in persons. These forms can be divided into (Shamsuddin, 2020):

1. Based on Delivery Destination

In this case, trafficking in persons is further distinguished from internal-trafficking and inter-country/cross-border trafficking in persons (international

trafficking). Internal trafficking usually takes place from villages to cities or from small towns to bigger cities in one country. Meanwhile, international trafficking occurs from one country to another. International trafficking is related to the issue of immigration.

2. Based on Victims

This form of human trafficking is divided into trafficking of women, children and men. Trafficking in women is by making women as commodities from human trafficking transactions. Women are the most vulnerable group to become victims of trafficking in persons, especially for sexual exploitation, domestic slavery and forced marriage. Not much different from trafficking in women, children are used as objects in human trafficking activities. As with women, children are also the most vulnerable group to become victims of the crime of trafficking in persons. Children are often exploited to become beggars, then targeted for sexual exploitation and pornography. Unlike the case with women and children who are more likely to be sexually exploited, men who are victims of human trafficking are mostly exploited economically. The economic exploitation referred to here is forced labor or work without pay where the forced labor certainly violates the provisions of applicable work procedures.

3. Based on the form of exploitation

The form of trafficking referred to here is distinguished again on sexual exploitation and non-sexual exploitation. Sexual exploitation can take the form of forced prostitution, forced marriages and intermediary marriages. First, forced prostitution is always accompanied by sexual violence in it. Most victims are ensnared in human trafficking because they want to find work. The pattern of snaring carried out by traffickers generally starts with recruiting victims. the perpetrator recruited the victim with the lure of a high-paying job with good facilities, then the victim was persuaded by the lure of the perpetrator. First, victims intended for forced prostitution who have been ensnared will be transported and then sold by the perpetrators. The women who become victims will be employed as sex workers. Second, forced marriage can be seen from phenomena of forced marriage, mostly done to strengthen the position of the victim's parents or to establish relations between the two families. The type of forced marriage that is often found in Indonesia is arranged marriage. Children will be married to someone whose age range is very, very far away, and women are married to old men who are rich. Forced marriage is not a new thing in Indonesia, as it is a common thing. In fact, in history alone there have been many recorded cases of forced marriages. Third, intermediary marriages (mail orders brides) involving women and children to be trafficked abroad. In this case, there are three parties involved including the buyer, the broker-user and the seller (the family). This intermediary marriage has a pattern, the brokers place advertisements via the internet to connect buyers and sellers. If contact has occurred, it is followed by a bidding process to adjust the price, after the price agreement is met, usually the object sold will be married at the place of origin of the customer. Prospective customers, of course, come from outside Indonesia.

While non-sexual exploitation is divided into forced labor and organ trafficking. First, forced labor is included in the form of slavery that takes place in domestic sector workers and slavery that occurs in the field of public works. In the domestic sector, it is slavery that takes place at home, most of the victims are women and children. Initially, the victim will receive a decent salary and facilities and be treated well, but over time, the victim's documents will be withheld by the employer, and movement and communication will be restricted. Most of the victims in this case experienced physical violence, sexual harassment, and rape. Second, the trafficking of organs that often occur are kidneys, body tissues (tissue), bones and skin. Trade in organs is carried out by brokers, where the broker will look for victims whose organs will be sold and then look for buyers who will buy these organs.

To find out the phenomenon of trafficking in persons in Riau Province after the Pandemic with its relation to the effect of digitalization on trafficking in persons, further research was conducted at the Riau Regional Police (Riau Regional Police) to be precise at Ditreskrim, Sub Directorate IV, Unit 1 TIP. The police have a strategic role in dealing with trafficking in persons. Police efforts in terms of law enforcement are the most important thing to deal with this problem.

## 2. Method

The research method used consists of the type of research used in this research is empirical legal research or empirical legal research, or empirical juridisch onderzoek or empiricalche juristische recherche which is known as legal research which analyzes and examines the operation of law in society. And with the nature of research in this study using descriptive research by disclosing problems and circumstances as they are, disclosing facts with research results that emphasize giving an objective picture of the actual state of the object under investigation (Ishaq, 2020). The object of study in this research is of course related to the phenomenon of trafficking in persons in Riau Province after the Pandemic with its relation to the effect of digitalization on trafficking in persons which will then be clearly described how this phenomenon can occur.

## 3. Results and Discussion

### Digitalization in the Era of Digital Disruption

The digital era is a period where information can be easily and quickly obtained and disseminated using digital technology. The digital era was born with the emergence of digital, internet networks, especially computer information technology. The sophistication of digital technology is making big changes to a world that will continue to move. Mastering and controlling digital technology properly is the choice so that digital technology can provide maximum benefits for human life.

The digital era is also referred to as the era of disruption (disruption era) which presents the power of technology, information and communication based on the benefits of internet media to become a new force in fulfilling the needs of everyone to help every movement without knowing the boundaries of space and time, of course with all forms of risk. and legal liability arising from the behavior of everyone who uses technology with different intentions and goals (Sri Ayu Astuti, 2020).



In Indonesia itself, digital technology has been able to drive the progress of Indonesia itself. If viewed from the perspective of infrastructure and laws that regulate activities on the internet, Indonesia can be said to be able to live in the digital era. The internet-based digital world makes all the activities of its users unlimited by space and time. In carrying out surfing activities on the internet, provisions have been set to regulate user behavior patterns and monitor what users do on the internet. The provisions in question take the form of a legal umbrella through the Electronic Information and Transaction Law (UU ITE). But it cannot be denied that the development of digital technology is in fact able to make crime also experience growth. In its development, there have been many impacts felt in this digital era. These impacts can be positive impacts and negative impacts. The positive impacts of the digital era can be (Wawan Setiawan, 2017):

1. The information needed can be accessed more quickly and more easily.
2. The growth of innovation in various fields oriented towards digital technology which makes it easier to do work.
3. The emergence of digital-based mass media, especially electronic media as a source of public knowledge and information.
4. Improving the quality of human resources through the development and utilization of information and communication technology.
5. The emergence of various online learning resources.
6. The emergence of online business in the form of e-commerce.

The negative impacts of the digital era that must be anticipated and solutions sought to avoid losses or dangers include:

1. Threats of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) violations due to easy access to data.
2. The threat of short-term thinking, which results in trained people to think short.
3. Threats of misuse of knowledge to commit crimes.

The threat of misuse of technological knowledge in its development has led to the emergence of crimes by utilizing the availability of the internet. Various crime cases that have taken advantage of cyberspace facilities have occurred recently, ranging from theft, hacking, wiretapping, data manipulation to other matters of a private nature. Crimes that occur in the digital era by utilizing cyberspace have become a threat to stability, making it difficult for the government to balance criminal technology with computer technology, especially internet and internet networks (Ana Irawati, 2021).

Crimes that utilize technology through devices connected to the internet are carried out by perpetrators with the aim of taking the victim's personal information to be used as material for profit or as a means of ensnaring victims to be involved in a crime. Therefore, digitization results in even more sophisticated modes of crime.

### **Crime of Trafficking in Persons After the Covid-19 Pandemic.**

Trafficking in persons is a violation of human rights that treats victims solely as commodities that are bought, sold, shipped and resold. The practice of trafficking in persons occurs throughout the world which has a very complex form and

continues to develop, is an act whose exploitative conditions are still aimed at humans (Farhana, 2012). Trafficking in persons is a violation of human rights and obligations according to nature given by the creator (God) where they cannot be treated like other creatures (animals), not even considered as goods even though they are tangible (Heny Nuraeny, 2016).

The phenomenon of trafficking in persons is rooted in the existence of views that degrade women, where this view becomes the forerunner of exploitative activities in the form of slavery. The slavery in question is of course still going on today, the only difference being that it is in a more modern form. Trafficking in persons has in fact become a symbol and benchmark where a person with a high social status is certain to have a slave to buy, or often referred to as a slave where this slave will be subject to the owner. Therefore, slavery was the beginning of problems related to human trafficking.

In Riau Province itself, based on data obtained from Unit 1 TPPO Sub-Directorate IV of the Riau Police Ditreskrim, the form of human trafficking that occurs in Riau Province is generally in the form of sending illegal migrant workers abroad, to be precise the country of Malaysia. The geographical location of Riau Province which is close to neighboring countries often causes Riau Province to be prone to transnational crimes. This is like a phenomenon that can not be avoided anymore.

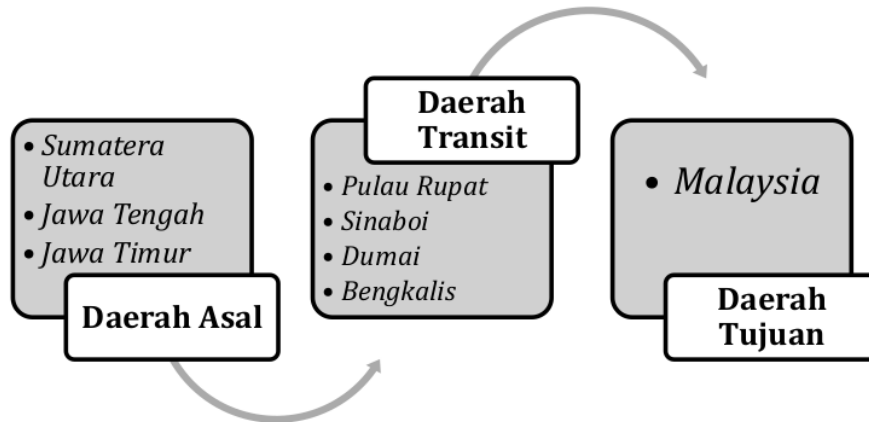
Increased interaction in aspects of life in various parts of the world has resulted in easier and faster international mobility and movement of people. Globalization on an international scale which has had an impact on advances in the fields of information technology, communication and transportation has thinned the borders between countries (borderless), where it can be seen that national borders are the outermost lines of limiting power between sovereign countries which are separated from one country to another. Globalization brings convenience in terms of rampant cases of trafficking in persons in the form of sending illegal migrant workers as a transnational crime issue (Respati Triana p, 2012).

Trafficking in persons is a new form of transnational crime that is increasingly common. Trafficking in persons can be found in developing countries which have a large population with an unequal ratio of female and male population. Another thing that is behind the occurrence of trafficking in persons is the existence of economic disparities with many demands for cheap labor that usually come from abroad. This type of crime should be of particular concern in line with the growing awareness that trafficking in persons is the exploitation of humans by humans. Sellers and buyers make humans as goods that can be traded to gain profits from selling or owning purchased humans. The seller will benefit from the results of his sale, and the buyer will have pleasure in controlling the human being he has bought. This form of pleasure can be in the form of sexual exploitation, economic exploitation, slavery and even organ harvesting (Okky Cahyo Nugroho, 2018).

In Riau Province itself, the most dominant form of trafficking in persons handled by the Riau Police itself is trafficking in people to turn them into illegal migrant workers. Based on the results of the interviews conducted, Unit 1 of TPPO said that Riau Province ranks fifth out of the top five provinces with the most crimes of trafficking in persons in Indonesia in early 2022 at an event held in Jakarta last January 2022. The problem of trafficking in persons in Riau Province is in the very

severe category. The most dominant form of trafficking in persons is sending illegal workers to Malaysia. The geographical location of Riau Province causes Riau Province itself to become a transit area in terms of trafficking in persons, especially illegal migrant workers. The routes of trafficking in persons involving Riau Province as a transit area are as follows:

**Figure 1**  
**Picture of Trafficking in Person Crime Routes Handled by Unit 1 TPPO Sub-Directorate IV of the Riau Regional Police's Criminal Investigation Unit**



Recruitment teams usually work in the areas where the victims come from. Perpetrators generally recruit victims using certain modes and the modes most frequently used are jobs with high salaries, comfortable workplace facilities, decent living quarters and without complicated paperwork or administration. For the cases handled by the Riau Police themselves, the victims mostly came from North Sumatra, Central Java and East Java provinces. Prospective victims in their area of origin will be offered to work in Malaysia with the lure of high salaries and comfortable facilities with easy administration, such as not having to apply for a passport or visa to be able to work in Malaysia. Of course, this has received extraordinary attention from potential victims who really don't want difficulties in arranging administrative documents to work abroad. Even though they have different areas of origin, in general these perpetrators recruit potential victims using the same modus operandi. The target victims of these recruiters are generally people whose economic capacity is below average and people who are unemployed. Then for one region of origin, for example the area of origin of North Sumatra, there is usually only one recruiter. So it was not uncommon, even though the victims came from different areas in the province, the people who recruited them were the same person. Prospective victims can be recruited directly by recruiters or can also be recruited through intermediaries. It is not uncommon for recruiters to recruit victims through social media by displaying advertisements for job vacancies in which the terms and conditions are listed as well as the facilities that potential victims will receive. The potential victims will finally contact the recruiter and further procedures will be carried out. Victims who are interested in the mode used by the recruiters

will be transported by the transport team from the area of origin to the transit area for further processing.

After the victims arrive at the transit area, the victims will be held in shelter before being transported to the destination area. Riau Province is one of the transit areas for trafficking syndicates. The victims will be accommodated in several areas of Riau Province which are often used as transit areas for this trafficking syndicate. These transit areas include Rupert Island, Sinaboi, Dumai and Bengkalis. These transit areas are the areas closest to the destination country compared to other areas in Riau Province. The distinctive feature of these transit areas is that they are directly adjacent to the sea. It is from here that the victims will be transported through the rat routes.

As previously mentioned, after the victims have been accommodated, the victims will then be sent to Malaysia. The perpetrators of sending illegal migrant workers will go through rat routes that are only known by the perpetrators themselves. The sender sends the victim by using a speed boat with an excessive load, so this is very dangerous for the victims who are transported in over capacity. After the delivery of the victims has been successful, the sending actor will contact the other party in charge of placing the victims in Malaysia or the team that will carry out the placement in the destination area. There the victims will be distributed to places determined by the perpetrators. The destinations of the victims varied widely, some were indeed employed according to the lure of the perpetrators but over time this was no longer valid, some were placed in inappropriate places, some were not even looked for a job at all, in the sense that they were ignored just. The perpetrators will get high rewards, while the victims who are left there are not guaranteed by anything. Not only that, it is not uncommon for syndicates of trafficking in persons in the form of illegal migrant workers to Malaysia to return to Indonesia with narcotics.

The entanglement of victims in the crime of trafficking in persons in the form of illegal migrant workers is motivated by several factors. Unit 1 of TPPO stated that there were several things that became factors for the crime of trafficking in persons that ensnared the victims, these factors included:

1. Economic Factor

In this case, the motivation of the parties involved in the crime of trafficking in persons is based on meeting financial needs, both for the perpetrators and the victims themselves. In addition, the economic difficulties during the Covid-19 pandemic became the biggest supporters where there was a desire to improve economic conditions, so that in the end the victims were tempted by high-paying offers whose legality was uncertain. A wave of layoffs, an increase in unemployment which resulted in an increase in the poverty rate during the Covid 19 pandemic or after the Covid 19 pandemic resulted in perpetrators taking advantage of this situation to ensnare potential victims in the crime of trafficking in persons.

2. Debt Relief Factor

Victims who are economically unable to pay off their debts are forced to look for jobs that generate quick money without knowing whether the jobs offered by the job agency are official or not. Another type of debt relief is through debt bondage. The perpetrator had previously predicted that the victim

would be unable to pay his debt to the perpetrator, so that in the end the perpetrator used the victim's debt to exploit. Most of the victims will be used as workers in the perpetrator's house without being paid at all.

### 3. Low Education Victims

Prospective victims with low education will become the main targets or targets for perpetrators of trafficking in persons. In general, these potential victims are those who lack knowledge and insight about the crime of trafficking in persons in its various forms.

### 4. The Persuasion Factor of the Actor

The perpetrators ensnare potential victims with the lure of high-paying jobs with comfortable facilities and without difficult placement procedures.

As previously mentioned, the difficult situation during the Covid 19 pandemic tends to result in increased crime rates, the occurrence of many crimes, including the crime of trafficking in persons. The increase in cases of trafficking in persons handled by Unit 1 Subdit IV of the Riau Police Ditreskrim has increased from 5 cases in 2020 to 6 cases in 2021, while the crime of trafficking in persons in the form of illegal migrant workers in Riau Province based on BP3MI Riau data has also increased. Previously there were 6 cases in 2020 to 25 cases in 2021. It can be seen that these years are vulnerable years for an increase in crime rates, including the crime of trafficking in persons. It cannot be denied that poverty and a difficult economic situation play a major role in the occurrence of crime. The desire to meet a decent standard of living motivates victims to become entangled in the crime of trafficking in persons.

In carrying out law enforcement against the crime of trafficking in persons in the form of illegal migrant workers, Unit 1 of the Riau Police's TIP made efforts consisting of:

#### 1. Prevention Efforts

The prevention effort in this case is to socialize the Crime of Trafficking in Persons to the public. This is of course to provide an understanding to the public regarding the crime of trafficking in persons, including the modes of trafficking in persons, forms of trafficking in persons or circumstances that can be regarded as crimes of trafficking in persons. This socialization is of course carried out so that the public avoids the seduction of perpetrators or recruiters (traffickers) in this crime. Socialization is also carried out by cooperating with interrelated agencies, BP3MI Riau for example. In this case BP3MI Riau also stated that there was a TIP Task Force coordinating with the Police and 23 related Ministries. Apart from that, Unit 1 TIP has also dispatched related police personnel to areas prone to transit of trafficking syndicates to carry out direct observation and observation as a measure to prevent the occurrence of the Crime of Trafficking in Persons in these areas.

#### 2. Law Enforcement Efforts

Law enforcement by the police is the first level of law enforcement in the law enforcement system in Indonesia. In accordance with the main duties and functions of the police themselves in terms of public order and security as well as law enforcement. Unit 1 TPPO itself carries out its duties with law enforcement stages starting from the process of investigation, investigation, arrest, determination of suspects in accordance with applicable provisions

according to the Criminal Procedure Code (KUHP) and Chief of Police Regulation (Perkap) No. 14 of 2012 concerning Criminal Investigation Management. Up to the handover of the case file (P21) to the Public Prosecutor (Prosecutor).

As for the victims, after the victims have been evacuated by police personnel, the victims will be transferred to other agencies such as BP3MI for further handling. BP3MI will make efforts to protect victims of trafficking in persons in the form of illegal migrant workers. B3MI carries out efforts to accommodate victims before being returned to their area of origin, providing socialization about not being trapped in the same mode, restoring the physical or psychological condition of victims if they experience trauma and facilitating victims to return to their area of origin. It can be said that the police and related agencies work together in dealing with crimes of trafficking in persons.

#### 4 Conclusion

The digital era is a period where information can be easily and quickly obtained and disseminated using digital technology. The digital era was born with the emergence of digital, internet networks, especially computer information technology. The digital era is also referred to as the era of disruption (disruption era) which presents the power of technology, information and communication based on the benefits of internet media to become a new force in fulfilling the needs of everyone to help every movement without knowing the boundaries of space and time, of course with all forms of risk. and legal liability arising from the behavior of everyone who uses technology with different intentions and goals. Risks that can be in the form of threats of misuse of technological knowledge in its development lead to the emergence of crimes by utilizing the availability of the internet.

Human trafficking is a violation of human rights and obligations according to nature given by the creator (God). Trafficking in persons is a global phenomenon that should receive special attention. The form of human trafficking that occurs in Riau Province itself generally occurs in the form of sending illegal migrant workers abroad, to the destination country, namely Malaysia. Riau Province occupies a position as a transit area. Factors behind the occurrence of trafficking crimes in Riau Province are economic factors, debt relief, low level of education and persuasion of perpetrators. Economic factors are the main motivation for the crime of trafficking in persons. Fulfillment of financial needs, both for the perpetrators and the victims themselves, coupled with economic difficulties during the Covid-19 pandemic, became the biggest supporter where there was a desire to improve the economic situation, so that in the end the victims were tempted by high-paying offers whose legality was uncertain. A wave of layoffs, an increase in unemployment which resulted in an increase in the poverty rate during the Covid 19 pandemic or after the Covid 19 pandemic resulted in perpetrators taking advantage of this situation to ensnare potential victims in the crime of trafficking in persons. So that the number of crimes of trafficking in persons has also increased. The methods used by perpetrators of trafficking in persons also involve social media as a means to carry out their crimes. The efforts made by the police in dealing with this crime are to make efforts to prevent and enforce the law

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