



Patriarchal Culture and Sexual Violence in the Novel *Woman at Point Zero* by Nawal el-Saadawi

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Abstract. This study aims to identify the domination of patriarchal culture and sexual violence depicted in the novel *Woman at Point Zero* by Nawal el-Saadawi. This research used a type of qualitative research. Qualitative research is research in understanding phenomena experienced by research subjects, such as motivation, actions, perceptions, and behavior, descriptively in language and words in a scientific study based on the method used. Data collection techniques in this study used literature study. The data validation technique used theoretical triangulation. The results of the study obtain several forms of patriarchal culture and sexual violence in the novel *Woman at Point Zero*, which include (1) sexism, men are first prioritized by the family, and the husband has property rights over the wife; (2) politics, power relations between women and men; (3) domestic work, girls are encouraged to be independent. While the form of sexual violence contained in the novel *Woman at Point Zero* includes (1) sexual harassment; (2) women trafficking; (3) forced marriage; (4) female circumcision; and (5) torture. In the novel *Woman at Point Zero* by Nawal el-Saadawi, patriarchal culture and sexual violence are interconnected. Patriarchal culture considers a man's position higher than a woman's, so men can discriminate against and even sexually assault women.

Keywords: Feminism · Patriarchal Culture · Sexual Violence

1 Introduction

Culture is the way of life that develops in society and is passed down from generation to generation. In Indonesia, many cultures are still inherent, such as the patriarchal culture in feminism. [1] in his book *Pengantar Gender dan Feminisme* (Introduction to Gender and Feminism) states that in feminism, there is a school of radical feminism, a gender system that is the basis for the treatment of violence against women. Feminism is also a form of approach in literature or literary criticism that views literary works from the role of women contained in literary works [2]. The purpose of feminism is as an effort to elevate and equalize women's rights [3]. Oppression of women is also included in a culture called patriarchal culture. According to Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia (KBBI), patriarchy is in social life, and some behaviors emphasize men more than women. In a

patriarchal culture, women are secondary creatures and constantly discriminated against according to their societal role. In everyday life, there is often a social system that makes patriarchy a prerequisite in creating a constructed social system [4].

Even though a woman can determine her life, women and men are only biologically different. Thus, it is appropriate that women should be able to have the courage to speak up and act to get their rights. Patriarchy is called culture because the system in this society has been passed down from the previous generation to the present generation. In the family, the father, as the head, is trusted to decide everything for all family members. Then systemically, the institutions or mechanisms strengthen the oppression of women. [5] The implementation of patriarchy is a man or father as a companion for women. This view creates a gender perception that men and women are unequal, so men dominate to gain respect. A woman's struggle to obtain rights as fellow human beings is difficult because various things occur in the very rapid development of civilization. However, it is undeniable that it can still be fought for [6].

Cultural factors cause individuals and families to not realize their rights as members of society, family, or the state. These cultural barriers, like unfair gender relations, result from a patriarchal culture that is very paternalistic in that society [6]. In patriarchal culture, a man's position is higher than a woman's. This situation will be related to existing benchmarks. Patriarchal culture forms socio-cultural conditions that view men as prominent people. Patriarchal culture is formed based on a structure of power and views that require a man to be first [7].

In society, not only patriarchal culture but violence is also often experienced by a woman. Violence is an act that violates and is intentionally carried out by individuals or groups to oppress the weak. [8] states that violence is an act of threatening, coercing, and torturing arbitrarily, which can give fear to the victim. Sexual violence is still rife in society, placing women as victims; even minors are not spared from sexual violence. The perpetrators of violence are often carried out by someone far away or close to the victim's environment, for example, the stepfather. [9] explain that most of the forms of violence experienced by women occur because of patriarchal cultural relations rooted and embedded in society.

Patriarchal culture is a specific part that is a decisive factor or reason for the occurrence of violence against women. Another factor in the occurrence of violence against women is that women are seen as unable to do anything to fight back and have no power or are seen as weak among men and society. The existence of sexual violence acts causes fear in women. Victims of sexual violence must experience many impacts, for example, trauma, psychological disorders, depression, and stress. As a woman, she should be able to care for herself, even though men and society often see her as weak.

Literary works in the form of novels as a type of literary work are created by authors who are part of society. Literature is the author's parable of existing phenomena [10]. In literary works, there is also a patriarchal culture and sexual violence, for example, in the novel *Woman at Point Zero*. This novel is based on a true story written by Nawal el-Saadawi, a feminist writer from Egypt with an international reputation. This novel is a story told by a woman from her prison cell, where she is awaiting execution. She tells the twists and turns of her life from when she was small in the village until she experienced

various bad treatment while living in the city as a prostitute. Through her profession as a prostitute, the female character can reveal the depravity of a male-dominated society.

The researcher took this topic in this study. From the structural analysis, this study leads to an analysis of patriarchal culture and sexual violence which includes a) the theme in the novel *Woman at Point Zero* is a woman in a patriarchal society; b) the plot in this novel is the backward plot marked by the character Firdaus who tells in detail about her dark past; c) Setting, the place that becomes the setting of this novel is in Qanatir prison; d) the point of view used by the author in this novel is the first person point of view of the side actor. The reader is the actor who plays a role in elevating and telling the story of the life of the female character in the novel; e) the message in this novel is the courage of a woman in fighting untruth. This action is brave and dangerous, but women must show courage to get the same rights as men.

The novel *Woman at Point Zero* shows the number of cases of sexual violence. This topic is interesting and related to the case that is currently rife. Many women are victims of sexual violence in society. This research is expected to appeal to all people and society to avoid patriarchal behavior and sexual violence against women so that patriarchal culture will disappear more and more and make learning to avoid the patriarchal system in society. Relevant research has been conducted by Estikomah [11], with the title "*Budaya Patriarki Dalam Novel Perempuan Berkalung Sorban Karya Abidah Elkhaliqy Sebagai Bahan Ajar Di Sekolah Menengah Atas* (Patriarchal Culture in Abidah El Khaliqy's Novel *Women with a Turban* as alternative teaching material in high schools) through a feminist approach. This research is said to be relevant because it has similarities, such as examining patriarchal culture in a novel. The results of this study indicate that there are seven negative impacts of patriarchal culture depicted in the novel, including (1) discrimination against women; (2) marginalization; (3) exploitation; (4) subordination; (5) stereotypes; (6) violence against women; and (7) workload.

Another research was conducted by Setyowati [4] titled "*Budaya Patriarki dalam Novel Perempuan di Titik Nol Karya Nawal El Saadawi* (Patriarchal Culture in The Novel *Woman at Point Zero* by Nawal el-Saadawi)." This research is also relevant because this research has similarities, such as examining the representation of patriarchal cultural forms. This research uses the same data source, the novel *Woman at Point Zero* by Nawal el-Saadawi. The results of this study show a form of a patriarchal culture divided into public and domestic patriarchy and data analysis based on the form of the patriarchal system.

There is also relevant research by Ayu Permata Sari [12] entitled *Resistensi Tokoh-Tokoh Perempuan Terhadap Patriarki dalam Novel Garis Perempuan Karya Sanie B. Kuncoro* (Resilience of Female Characters on Patriarchy in the Novel *Garis Perempuan* by Sanie B. Kuncoro). This research is relevant because it has similarities in studying the cultural background inseparable from a patriarchal law rooted in society. The novel *Garis Perempuan* by Sanie B. Kuncoro on this research explains how the life of a woman who has been bound by patriarchal culture since birth, with a constructed life, requires the characters to choose a path according to cultural demands. The result of this study is that there is resistance to female characters in the novel *Garis Perempuan* by Sanie B. Kuncoro in the form of sexuality as an effort to eradicate poverty. This line deviates

from the patriarchal path, the integrity of women's dignity in virginity and women's subjectivity in sexuality.

2 Method

This research used a type of qualitative research. Qualitative research is research in understanding a phenomenon experienced by subjects in research, such as motivation, actions, perceptions, and behavior, descriptively in language and words in a scientific study based on a specific context using existing natural methods. The data in this study were the existence of sentences and paragraphs that describe the domination of patriarchal culture and sexual violence in the novel *Woman on Point Zero* by Nawel El-Saadawi. The data source was the seventh print novel *Woman at Point Zero* by Nawel El-Saadawi, published in May 2021 with 176 pages. Yayasan Pustaka Obor Indonesia published this novel in Jakarta.

Data collection techniques used literature study by reviewing the literature, books, works of fiction, notes, and various reports related to the problem to be analyzed and solved. The data validation technique used theoretical triangulation. The final results in qualitative research are in the form of information descriptions or thesis statements. Then the information will be compared with relevant theoretical perspectives to avoid the perspective of individual researchers in the conclusions and results generated. The data analysis in this study used the hermeneutic technique, which is used to understand a text described and given to reviewers of literary texts.

3 Result and Discussion

This study aims to identify the domination of patriarchal culture and sexual violence depicted in the novel *Woman at Point Zero* By Nawal el-Saadawi. After going through various data analyses, there are various forms of patriarchal culture and sexual violence in the novel. [1] a book entitled *Pengantar Gender dan Feminisme* (Introduction to Gender and Feminism), states that in feminism, there is an ideology of radical feminism, where the system of sex/gender is the basis for the oppression of women. In radical feminism, there are forms of feminism such as sexism, rights of power relations, reproduction between men and women, dichotomy, and lesbianism. Meanwhile, patriarchal culture is a culture that is built on a structure that places the role of men as the sole power holder, the center of everything.

The results of the analysis carried out in the novel *Woman at Point Zero* by Nawal el-Saadawi contain several forms of patriarchal culture described through sentences and paragraphs in the novel. This information can be accessed in Table 1.

In the novel *Woman at Point Zero*, several forms describe sexual violence. [13] states that violence occurs when someone has been affected by physical and mental realizations and even views of something that cause acts of violence that threaten other people. In the novel *Woman at Point Zero* by Nawal el-Saadawi, several forms of violence are contained in sentences or paragraphs of excerpts. From the analysis results, there are several forms of sexual violence. This information can be seen in Table 2.

Table 1. Forms of Patriarchal Culture

Form	Indicator	Data page
Sexism	The man is put first by the family	24, 25, 26, 76
	The husband has property rights over the wife	15, 70
Politics	Power relations between women and men	38, 41
Domestic Work	Girls are encouraged to be independent	16, 17, 30

Table 2. Forms of Sexual Violence

Form	Data Page
Sexual Harassment	18, 19, 32, 80, 81
Trafficking in Women	58, 94
Marriage Force	58
Female Circumcision	17
Torture	70, 72, 79, 80, 81

Research in the novel *Woman at Point Zero* by Nawal el-Saadawi formulates two problems: patriarchal culture and sexual violence, that dominate the novel. In the novel *Woman at Point Zero*, it is found several forms of patriarchal culture and sexual violence as explained. More details can be seen in the following discussion.

3.1 Patriarchal Culture in the Novel *Woman at Point Zero* by Nawal el-Saadawi

Patriarchal culture is also reflected in literary work. Literary works develop from a nation's social culture or history, and the author is a member of society. In creating a literary work, the author often raises a true story or societal events, for example, in the novel *Woman at Point Zero*. In the novel, there is a patriarchal culture that was normal to do in its time. Patriarchal culture in the novel *Woman at Zero* by Nawael el-Saadawi is found in the following aspects.

Sexism

Sexism is a culture that adheres to a system that views the status of women and men as unequal based on gender. This culture believes that women are a group that is not weak and does not have full power, compared to men [14], for example, in a male family. The man or father has full power in managing the family. Several forms of sexism are found in the novel *Woman at Point Zero*, including men who first take precedence in the family, and the husband has property rights over the wife. Furthermore, the discussion of these two matters is described as follows.

The Man Comes First in the Family

In the family, the role of man, father, or husband, has power and is imaged as the leader

of his family. However, many men use this power for themselves. In the novel *Woman at Point Zero*, some sentences or paragraphs describe this. This is evident from the following quotation.

"Bukannya tetap tinggal disini saya agar tetap hangat, Ibu ku membiarkan saya sendiri pada saat tidur dan Ia akan disamping ayah untuk membuat dia hangat. Pada saat musim panas saya sering melihat Ibu duduk didepan kaki Ayah dengan sebuah mangkuk timah di tanganya saat ia sedang membasuh kakinya dengan air dingin" [15].

"Instead of staying by my side to keep me warm, my mother left me alone when I slept, and she would be beside my father to keep him warm. In the summer, I often saw my mother sitting at my father's feet with a tin bowl in her hand while washing his feet in cold water."

The quote explains that Firdaus' father always comes first in various family affairs. Even in winter, Firdaus' father lets his children catch a cold. Likewise, a mother who usually cares about her child should warm her child, and her mother usually lets her child get cold and prefers to go to her father to warm her. Even in summer, Mother had to make Father's feet cold, so he had to wash them in cold water. In this case, we can know that in the novel *Woman at Point Zero*, there is the use of power in the family for oneself by a man, father, or husband through a form of sexism.

"Ketika saya bertambah usia, Ayah akan segan meletakkan sebuah mangkuk besar, kemudian ayah akan mengajari saya bagaimana cara membasuh kaki dengan benar seperti yang sering dilakukan ibu, agar saya dapat menggantikannya" [15].

"When I got older, Father would reluctantly put down a large bowl. Then Father would teach me how to wash his feet properly as Mother often did so that I could replace her."

In the novel, a child must do what his/her father orders, even though a child at the age of Firdaus usually has fun playing with her friends. Based on the quote, it is described that Firdaus had to replace her mother's job to wash her father's feet with water. Firdaus could not refuse the order because she was afraid of her father. [16] stated that women were seen as weak and similar to staying at home, taking care of, and caring for family members. Meanwhile, a man is vital and has the highest family management authority.

"Ayahku tidak akan pernah tidur tanpa makan apapun, Jika tidak ada makanan yang berada di rumah, kami akan dibiarkan tidur dengan perut kelaparan, namun ayah tetap mendapatkan makanannya." [15].

"My father would never go to sleep without eating anything. We would sleep hungry without food in the house, but my father still got his food."

The quote explains that Firdaus' father always takes precedence in food matters. The quote also explains that if the father is not fed, they will sleep on an empty stomach. In this case, we can see in the excerpt from the novel that there is a patriarchal culture that is still carried out in the Firdaus family, that a husband, father, or man uses his power in the family only for himself, that is, as the first person, he must come first.

"Ayah biasanya akan menguasai dan menggunakan ruangan tungku di rumah pada saat musim dingin dan hujan, paman akan memberikan saya tempat tidur yang dingin tanpa selimut. Paman akan menempatkan saya di tempat tidur yang keras dan ia akan pergi tidur di kamar yang hangat dan nyaman, kemudian suami saya akan makan lebih banyak dari pada saya, tetapi ia masih menginginkan makanan dari piring saya" [15].

"Father used to master and use the furnace room at home on cold and rainy days. Uncle would give me a cold bed without blankets. Uncle would put me on a hard bed, and he would sleep in a warm and comfortable room. Then my husband would eat more than me, but he still wanted food from my plate."

The novel's quote explains that a man is always prioritized in Firdaus' life by a father who lets his child get cold in her sleep while he feels comfortable and warm in the furnace room during winter. It is not only done by her father but also by her Uncle. He sleeps comfortably, while Firdaus sleeps on a hard wooden cot. Another man is the husband of Firdaus. Her husband eats more than his wife, Firdaus. In this case, we can see how patriarchal culture is often felt by Firdaus, even by a man who is close to him and who always cares about himself more than other people. However, as a woman, Firdaus could not express her rights because of a fear of patriarchy.

Husband Has Property Rights to Wife

In a family, the highest authority lies with the husband. In this novel, a husband uses his power to do anything to his wife, as in the following quote.

"Bagaimana memukul istrinya dan memperbudaknya tiap malam" [15].

"How to beat his wife and enslave her every night"

The quote explains that a husband has the right over his wife's body. If his wife does not carry out her husband's orders, she must accept bad treatment from her husband, such as violence against her body. In this quote, a wife must serve her husband's lust every night. In this case, we can know from the novel *Woman at Point Zero* that there is a patriarchal culture in the form of sexism where the husband has property rights over his wife and marital slavery.

"Tetapi paman menjelaskan bahwa seorang suami semua sama, akan memukuli istri-istrinya" [15].

"But Uncle explained that a husband, all the same, would beat his wives."

"Seorang istri yang tidak diperbolehkan melawan suaminya, ia harus patuh terhadap laki-laki karena itu kewajibannya sebagai seorang istri" [15].

"A wife who is not allowed to fight her husband must obey men because it is her duty as a wife."

The quote explains that the behavior of most husbands who beat their wives becomes a culture and habit when a husband is dissatisfied with his wife's work or something that his wife does. Beating behavior becomes natural because a husband's power over his wife becomes a strong wall, which is why a husband can treat his wife the way he wants. A wife does not deserve to complain about her husband because of fear or a culture that ensnares her. The duty of a wife is perfect obedience to her husband.

Politics

In domestic politics, men are often put forward as rulers and leaders. Women are looked down upon as if they are not good at it, we can see this statement through quotes in the novel *Woman at Point Zero*.

"Saya tahu bahwa perempuan tidak bisa menjadi pemimpin Negara" [15].

"I know that women cannot become leaders of the State"

In the quote, Firdaus seems to have understood that women cannot be leaders. It was common among the people around him. Patriarchal culture is also included in political

affairs. It is believed that in a society, in a family, only a man has the right to lead or give orders, so a woman must agree on what a man will do to her.

"Saya dapat pula melihat bahwa semua yang memerintah adalah laki-laki. Persamaan dari semua laki-laki ialah kepribadian yang penuh kerakusan dalam menakhlukkan uang dan distorsi, seks dan kekuasaan tanpa batas" [15].

"I can also see that all those who rule are men. What all men have in common is a greedy personality that conquers money and distortion, sex and unlimited power."

In the quote, it is explained that a man will rule, and they are men who spread corruption on earth, who oppress the people, those who are very arrogant who will be able to persuade, put out sweet words, and trap them in sex based on lust.

Domestic Jobs

The domestic patriarchal system of housework is that housework is done by women, whether married or not. If women do not do their household job, they will be seen as women who are irresponsible and do not understand things in the family. We can find out about domestic work activities in the following quotations:

"Di atas kepala, terdapat sebuah kendi berisi air yang sangat banyak hingga memenuhi kendi Karena beratnya kendi tersebut membuat leher saya tersentak ke belakang, membuat saya tidak seimbang, kemudian saya ingat ajaran ibu saya tentang gerakan kaki yang harus benar saat membawa kendi di kepala, agar tubuh seimbang dan tidak jatuh"[15].

"Above my head is a jug filled with water so much that it fills the jug. Because the jug's weight made my neck jerk back and unbalanced, I remembered my mother's teaching about correct foot movements when carrying the jug on my head. So that the body is balanced and does not fall."

"Pada saat saya telah pulang, saya kembali melanjutkan aktivitas di rumah yaitu menyapu, mencuci pakaian, merapikan buku. Dan menyetrika baju kaftan serta sorbannya. Kemudian saya akan menyiapkan makan malam, setelah pekerjaan itu telah selesai" [15].

"When I got home, I returned to continue my activities, such as sweeping, washing clothes, tidying up books, and ironing his caftan and turban. Then I will prepare dinner when the work is done."

From the quotation, since her childhood, Firdaus has been accustomed to being responsible for household chores. Because a woman will later be considered unskilled in working with wages, so from a young age, a woman will be accustomed to doing work, such as household chores. So that domestic work has been provided from an early age.

3.2 Sexual Violence in the Novel *Woman at Point Zero* by Nawal el-Saadawi

Violence against women has been a matter of concern and criticism by feminists for a long time. Women are indeed often more victims of violence than men. Many men are the reasons for this violence because violence can occur due to gender inequality which can create power users [17]. The existence of sexual violence is due to the perspective in a society that considers men to have a dominant gender role and women to take a passive role. Sexual violence is more often tolerated because women are considered to

have to surrender themselves to men [18]. The Novel *Woman at Point Zero* by Nawal el-Saadawi contains a form of sexual violence that the first character feels.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment often occurs to women. This treatment is carried out because of the assumption that a woman is psychologically and physically weak and vulnerable. This assumption seems to have become a culture in society or among men. [19] Harassment is terrible or belittling behavior. Examples of sexual harassment that can be described include touching the victim's body parts, forced kissing, speaking badly of the victim, touching the victim's limbs, and many more. The novel *Woman at Point Zero* by Nawal el-Saadawi contains a form of sexual harassment in the following excerpt.

"Seorang anak laki-laki yang masih kecil bernama Muhammadin biasanya menyentuh saya dari bawah kemudian mengikuti saya ke sebuah gubuk kecil di sekitar ladang, lalu ia menyuruh saya untuk merebahkan tubuh saya di atas tumpukan jerami dan mengangkat gelabeya saya. Ia mengajak saya bermain engantin perempuan dan pengantin laki-laki". [15].

"A small boy named Muhammadin used to touch me from below and then follow me to a small hut near the fields, where he told me to lie down on a pile of straw and pick up my *gelabeya*. He invited me to play bridesmaids and the groom".

"Pada suatu saat saya merasa tangan besar paman menyentuh sekitar kaki saya dengan sangat pelan-pelan seakan-akan takut ketahuan, kemudian berikutnya tangan tersebut kembali menjelajahi kaki saya sampai paga dengan gerakan hati-hati dan gemetar" [15].

"At one point, I felt my uncle's big hand touching my leg very slowly, as if I was afraid of being found out. The next hand explored my leg up to the thigh carefully and tremblingly."

The excerpt from the novel explains that a woman, Firdaus, has experienced abuse in her childhood by her friend Muhammadin and Firdaus' Uncle. The form of sexual harassment committed by his Uncle was groping the victim's thigh. At the same time, the form of harassment by Muhammadin is the relationship that a bride usually carries out. At that time, Firdaus was still a child, so she did not understand the feeling and meaning of the treatment of her friend and Uncle.

"Saya tidak dapat menjelaskan bagaimana perasaan saya waktu itu, bagaimana tubuh saya merespon hal itu, pada saat jari-jari Paman saya yang besar menyentuh tubuh saya, kemudian secara hati-hati mengangkat selimut yang saya pakai, lalu mulutnya menyentuh dan menekan bibir saya, bersamaan dengan gerakan tangannya yang telah meraba-raba paha saya. « [15].

"I cannot explain how I felt at that time, how my body responded to it when my Uncle's big fingers touched my body, then carefully lifted the blanket I was wearing, then his mouth touched and pressed my lips, along with the movement of his hand that had groped my thigh."

It explains that the sexual harassment of Firdaus was often carried out by those closest to her, her Uncle. The harassment is kissing on the lips and groping along the thighs of Firdaus—a child who should be loved like a child to her Uncle. However, in this novel which tells the story of Firdaus, it is explained that sexual harassment has often been carried out since childhood to fulfill desires and as a culture in society.

"Dia pulang tengah malam, menarik secara paksa pakaian dari tubuh saya, menampar muka, dan merebahkan tubuh beratnya diatas tubuh saya. Saya memjamkan mata dengan perasaan takut dan mencoba untuk melawan dan menghindari tubuh beratnya. Kemudian saya terkapar dibawahnya tanpa bergerak, kosong dari segala birahi, atau rasa nikmat, bahkan dari rasa nyeri." [15].

"He came home in the middle of the night, forcibly pulled the clothes from my body, slapped my face, and threw his heavy body on top of mine. I closed my eyes in fear and tried to fight and avoid his heavy body. Then I lay beneath him without moving, no lust or pleasure, even from pain."

In the quote from the novel, a woman named Firdaus is already a teenager. He met a lot of men and women. From the quote, she found a man who wanted to have sex with her by force. Women are considered weak, so men think they can do anything to her for their satisfaction without realizing that they were also born from a woman.

Women Trafficking

In the novel *Woman at Point Zero* by Nawal el-Saadawi, several paragraphs in the story indirectly contain trafficking in women. [20] Trafficking women are usually used for sexual exploitation and as workers in rough places for low pay. Women are considered to be influenced by someone's persuasion. Whether for economic or other reasons, they will fall into sexual exploitation.

(Firdaus akan dinikahkan dengan seorang laki-laki yang lebih tua) "Jika aku yang berbicara dengannya, Firdaus akan setuju, mau tidak mau, saya bermaksud untuk minta mas kawin yang besar dari mereka." [15].

(Firdaus will be married to an older man) "If I talk to him, Firdaus will agree. Like it or not, I intend to ask for a large dowry from them."

This quote explains the fate of a woman, Firdaus, who will be married to an older man. In the sentence "I intend to ask for a large dowry from him," indirectly, he has sold Firdaus through marriage.

"Sharifa telah memperdayaimu, Dia telah menghasilkan uang dari menjual mu." [15].

"Sharifa has tricked you. She has made money from selling you."

The quote explains that trafficking in women is very visible in the novel, such as Firdaus, who is taught to become a prostitute to get money, and other people also get income from selling Firdaus. In this novel, a prostitute is more honorable than any other woman. Because a prostitute can fulfill a man's sexual desires without being forced, so a prostitute is more respected than other women.

Female Circumcision

Female circumcision is usually carried out because of a cultural obligation. Usually, in some cultures, this female circumcision is carried out as a condition for a woman to marry. Some of them do not know the dangers of female circumcision, and because of cultural and social factors, they still practice it. They think that if women are not circumcised, society will gossip about them. The novel *Woman at Point Zero* by Nawal el-Saadawi contains female circumcision activities explained in the quote.

"First, he would hit my body, then bring a tiny knife and cut the flesh between my thighs." [15].

Female circumcision is also experienced by a female figure named Firdaus during her childhood in the novel *Woman at Point Zero*. This is seen in the quote in the sentence, “and cut the flesh between my thighs.” Based on this statement, it can be interpreted that they performed circumcision on Firdaus’ genitals. According to some cultures, female circumcision is highly recommended because if not, the community will gossip about it, and it is believed that no one wants to marry her even though circumcision of the female genitalia is dangerous and can interfere with health.

Torture

Torture or violence often happens to women because a woman in society is seen as weak and unable to protect herself, so there are many cases of torture involving women as victims. According to [20], violence against women occurs due to power relations between men and women, so men have a real opportunity to use, control, and oppress women. The novel *Woman at Point Zero* by Nawal el-Saadawi contains several acts of torture on female figures.

“Pada suatu peristiwa dia memukul tubuh saya dengan sepatunya. Karena hal itu tubuh dan muka saya memar dan bengkak kemudian saya pergi dari rumah dan pergi ke rumah Paman.” [15].

“On one occasion, he hit my body with his shoe. Because of that, my body and face were bruised and swollen, and then I left the house and went to my Uncle’s house.”

The quote explains how a woman suffers physically and psychologically because she has nothing and does not dare to fight against her violent treatment until she is forced to leave the house to find a place that keeps them safe from the torture they often experience. The form of torture in the novel that Firdaus has experienced is a beating. Firdaus was hit all over his body with a shoe by his husband, so she decided to leave.

“Pada suatu hati dia memukul tubuh saya dengan tongkatnya yang berat, hingga darah mulai keluar dari telinga dan hidung saya. Kali ini aku tidak pergi ke tempat Paman namun saya hanya berjalan-jalan menyusuri jalan raya tanpa tahu tujuan dengan muka memar, mata bengkak, dan penuh luka di tubuh saya, banub tak ada seorang pun yang memperhatikan saya.” [15].

“One day, he hit my body with his heavy stick until blood started coming out of my ears and nose. This time I did not go to Uncle’s place, but I just walked down the road without knowing the destination with a bruised face, swollen eyes, and wounds on my body. No one paid attention to me.”

The violence experienced by Firdaus in the novel is beating with a stick so that her nose and ears bleed. Everyone does not care about a suffering woman with wounds on her body and chooses to close her eyes without pity to help her. Even Firdaus prefers to live on the streets rather than report to the police after getting violent. This is because, in a patriarchal culture, violence perpetrated by a husband against his wife is not considered a crime. So Firdaus did not think to report it to the police.

“Even though I had spoken in a low tone and my eyes were directed towards the ground, he stood up and slapped me hard until I fell. He said, “What are you cheap women, vagabonds?” His hands were huge with a strong slap.” [15].

The power relationship between men and women is also a factor in the existence of torture or violence. Men tend to have more power over women, so men can use their power to do anything to women, as in the quote. Firdaus’s friend committed an act

of violence, a hard slap on his face. Not only a slap, but Firdaus' friend also cursed and insulted him. Sometimes women do not dare to fight against these acts of violence because men have a higher position in society than women.

The novel *Woman at Point Zero* by Nawal el-Saadawi contains several forms of patriarchal culture and sexual violence. There is a relationship between patriarchal culture and sexual violence where patriarchal culture considers a man's position higher than a woman's, so men can discriminate against and even sexually assault women.

4 Conclusion

Based on an analysis of patriarchal culture and sexual violence in the novel *Woman at Point Zero* by Nawal el-Saadawi, it can be concluded that there is a domination of patriarchal culture in the novel *Woman at Point Zero*, and sexual violence is depicted. The forms of patriarchal culture in the novel include: (1) Sexism, family first prioritizes men and husbands having property rights over wives; (2) Politics, power relations between women and men; (3) Domestic work, girls are encouraged to be independent. Meanwhile, the forms of sexual violence contained in the novel *Women at Point Zero* include (1) Sexual harassment, (2) Women Trafficking, (3) Forced Marriages, (4) Female Circumcision, and (5) Torture. In the novel *Woman at Point Zero* by Nawal el-Saadawi, patriarchal culture and sexual violence are interconnected. Patriarchal culture considers a man's position higher than a woman's, so men can discriminate against and even sexually assault women.

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