



Sexual Violence and Higher Education: How to Solve Sexual Violence Cases from Students Perspective in Indonesia

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Abstract. The increasing number of cases of sexual violence among college students was an important problem. This study aimed to obtain how to resolve issues of sexual violence among tertiary institutions from Indonesian students. This research applied the survey method to gather information from students in Indonesia. We used quantitative methods in this study. Our results show that respondents know the meaning of sexual violence and the types of sexual violence. They also agree to report the incidents of sexual violence on campus to their supervisor. Ironically, they don't know how to say if they experienced or witnessed sexual violence in university. Therefore, we need a formula to simplify reporting sexual violence among higher education students. By forming a Task Force for Prevention and Handling of Sexual Violence in Higher Education level consist of 50% students and 50% lecturers and staff of membership. Then universities need to make guidelines and mechanisms for preventing and handling sexual violence in universities that contain socialization and education and case resolutions that protect privacy, side with victims, and fulfill a sense of justice.

Keywords: sexual violence, students, higher education, prevention.

1 Introduction

Sexual violence is a crime that can occur anywhere and at any time, leading to coercion. It even attempts to assault in the sexual sphere, whether to have sexual intercourse or not, to harass, rape, sexually exploit, humiliate, or coerce others, which leads to the reproductive function due to an imbalance of power and lead to mental and physical health disturbances to the victim without consent. The violence that often occurs to women was physical violence (31%), sexual violence 30%, psychic violence 28%, and economic violence 10%.[1]–[4].

Based on data from National Commission on Violence Against Women (Komnas Perempuan) in 2018 and 2020 revealed that there have been increased significantly, from 1011 cases to 299,911 cases of violence against women. One of the types of violence experienced was sexual violence, with as many as 7,191 points. [5]. Sexual violence is now rife in various circles, including colleges or higher education—victims of

violence in tertiary institutions experienced by many male and female students. Universities are included in a high cluster contributing to sexual violence in Indonesia [5], [6]. The reason why the high rate of sexual violence in universities is difficult to handle is due to several factors, namely the absence of a safe place for victims to tell stories, report cases that happened to them, the lack of a clear reporting system or mechanism and sanctions for perpetrators and the absence of evidence or documentation of case that happened [6]. Concerns regarding the settlement of claims of sexual violence raise the question of how universities have governance for resolving sexual violence in tertiary institutions. In line with the above, this research article aims to describe how college student's perspective among sexual violence in Higher Education level in Indonesia.

2 Method

This research was conducted by online survey using Google Forms. We distributed the survey through lectures that represent four regions in East Java. The questionnaires consist of four parts namely demographic data, sexual violence knowledge, the perspective of sexual violence prevention and handling sexual violence in Higher education level. We used nonprobability sampling. Each respondent who was willing to complete and return the survey is considered a research sample. The inclusion criteria in this study were college students from year 1 to 4 of productive age 18 -21 years old and willingness to be respondents. Meanwhile, the exclusion criteria for this study were students who were currently taking leave from lectures for all reasons. The survey was conducted from August to October 2022. The total number of respondents who filled out was 310 respondents.

All respondents were divided into four regional groups in East Java, namely Arek (Surabaya, Malang, Batu), Pandalungan (Pasuruan, Probolinggo, Situbondo, Bondowoso, Lumajang dan Jember), Madura (Bangkalan, Sampang, Pamekasan and Sumenep), and Mataraman (Ngawi, Madiun, Pacitan, Magetan, Kediri, Nganjuk, Tulungagung, Blitar, Trenggalek, Tuban, Lamongan, and Bojonegoro.). The data was collected and tested for validity and reliability. The results were valid and reliable. The results will be presented in descriptive and narrative. We did not perform any analysis proses in this study.

3 Result and Discussion

3.1 RESULT

3.1.1 Students' Knowledge About Sexual Violence

The results of our study showed that 3% among college students did not know the meaning of sexual violence. Although only a few respondents did not know the meaning, more than 20% respondent did not know the types of sexual violence, 4% of

respondents said that intentional touching or groping on sensitive parts is not a form of sexual violence, 12% of respondents said that receiving unwanted sexual content or materials sent from the opposite sex was not an act of sexual harassment, and 10% of respondents said that sending text messages and then directing the conversation in a sexual direction (including sending pornographic voice messages) is not an act of sexual harassment. Regarding this, 98% of respondents stated that the rules regarding sexual violence on campus are very important. This is also related to the mechanism and service for complaints of sexual violence on campus or in college. 68% of respondents also said that campus regulations had not provided a sense of security from acts of sexual violence.

3.1.2 Prevention Sexual Violence in Campus

Regulations related to preventing and handling sexual violence nationally already exist in Minister of Education and Culture Regulation Number 30 of 2021. However, each university can make derivative regulations such as campus policies, rector regulations, guidelines, or pocketbooks. Based on our respondent, all campuses in this study still do not have derivative rules related to sexual violence and have not made guidelines or pocketbooks. In addition to derivative rules, universities must create a Special Task Force for the Prevention and Handling of Sexual Violence Cases or the PPKS Task Force. This team is called Prevention and Handling Sexual Violence task force (PPKS Task Force). This is also supported by 95.6% of respondents who stated that establishing the PPKS Task Force on campus is important. As of January 2022, task force teams at each campus have yet to be formed. This follows the study's results that 53% of respondents stated that no special team on campus handled cases of sexual violence. Finally, the government intervened on campus to immediately create a task force and was given a limit until September 2022 [7].

While the task force has been formed, the government has not issued technical guidelines and tasks to be carried out by the task force. Finally, in September-October 2022, based on our respondents, they said that their universities who have the task force responded to make standard operational procedures in handling sexual violence and do research about sexual violence in higher education. The task force team also provides intensive training and workshops related to the formulation of prevention and handling of sexual violence on campus, which is still in the process of being made by the task force team at each campus. The PPKS Task Force team was formed with a composition of 50% students, and 50% are lecturers and teaching staff. The PPKS Task Force is expected to collaborate with universities, faculties, and departments in order to prevent and handle sexual violence. They are also considered capable of accommodating the issues among students, lecture, and other parties.

According to our finding 42% of college students stated that their campuses had not provided socialization regarding the prevention and handling of sexual violence on a massive scale. This results also in line with statement from 64% respondent that describe their campuses do not yet have educational media for preventing and handling sexual violence, for example, videos/infographics/pocketbooks that are maximal in conducting education and prevention. In addition, 68% of respondents said that the

campus environment also did not provide a sense of security from acts of sexual violence. Therefore, socializing and creating massif media will help college students to increase their awareness about sexual violence.

The data findings show that every room and corner of the campus has the potential to become a place that supports the occurrence of sexual violence with a high percentage and a thin margin. 87.5% of respondents stated that the areas that are vulnerable and conducive to sexual violence on campus are corridors/quiet alleys/dark streets, followed by bathrooms/changing rooms, with a percentage of 70.4%. In addition, 55.6% of respondents stated that the Student Organization Room was followed by social media 53.2%. Then followed by external assignment places such as Community Service Programs, Projects, etc., at 51.5%, groups with the opposite sex at 47.5%, classrooms at 37%, lecturer rooms at 32.7%, shared study rooms/campus gazebo at 26.9%, canteens at 23.6%, library 20.5%, and laboratory 17.5%. Corridors/quiet alleys/dark streets are vulnerable places that support sexual violence because these places have minimal people and minimal supervision, thus providing opportunities for perpetrators to commit sexual violence. At the same time, victims do not dare to move. In addition, in terms of lighting, it is also lacking, allowing the perpetrator to take advantage of a moment when the victim cannot see it.

Other finding from this study, apart from the place, campus assignments also have the potential to support sexual violence, such as off-campus assignments, community services program (KKN), student activities, thesis/final assignment guidance, Field Work Lectures (KKL), consultations with Academic Advisors, admissions new members of ormawa (student community), performing arts. Off-campus assignments and real work lectures are considered the most vulnerable because they have direct contact with many people, are free, and have minimal supervision, so off-campus activities and community service become activities that provide opportunities for perpetrators to commit sexual violence.

3.1.3 Handling Related to Sexual Violence

The PPKS Task Force Team can process the handling of sexual violence on campus if a task force on campus has been formed. Victims or witnesses can report to the relevant service unit. However, in terms of reporting, the results showed that 89.2% of respondents stated that they did not know the stages of reporting cases of sexual violence. Furthermore, 65% of respondents said that the existing sexual violence services were not sufficient to tackle issues of sexual violence on campus. 5.4% stated that sexual violence services on campus were not enough. This is due to a lack of information or an unwillingness to seek information about sexual violence services on campus. The campus already has a service or unit capable of handling sexual violence, including a trauma healing service unit for victims. This unit is usually called the counseling service unit. The counseling unit has a service flow starting from student/counselee registering, determining a schedule to meet, the counseling process, evaluation, and follow-up.

Regarding handling sexual violence on campus, the Task Force Team was also allowed to establish partnerships with other institutions for addressing sexual violence. However, 62% of respondents said their campus had not partnered with other

institutions to prevent and handle sexual violence. In addition, our respondents suggested that partnerships are needed for the more professional handling of victims and perpetrators, collaborations can be carried out by MoU or other methods. Alliances can be made with legal institutions such as courts to guarantee legal certainty if the victim wants the perpetrator to be tried legally. Then, you can partner with doctors, psychologists, therapists, psychiatrists, or other health workers for recovery efforts.

3.2 DISCUSSION

Sexual violence can be defined as behavior that contains coercion and causes physical and psychological harm. Sexual violence is difficult to resolve because it is difficult to find evidence. Sexual violence in Indonesia is regulated in the Regulation of the Minister of Education and Culture (Permendikbud) No. 30 of 2021 concerning the Prevention and Handling of Sexual Violence in the Higher Education Environment, which is defined as any act that demeans, insults, harasses, attacks a person's body or reproductive function, because of inequality. Power or gender relations, which result in or can result in psychological and physical suffering, including those that interfere with one's reproductive health to eliminate the opportunity to carry out higher education safely and optimally. This is in line with the definition of sexual violence in Vietnam, where sexual violence is defined as sexual activity that occurs without consent, including non-contact activities such as sexually explicit material and forced penetration [8]. Furthermore, research at the University of Cape Coast, Ghana, states that sexual violence can affect students' health and academic success [9]. Meanwhile, in Afghanistan, the definition of sexual violence and harassment is not clearly explained, giving rise to different interpretations in different contexts. However, the Law on the Prohibition of Harassment against Women and Children in Afghanistan defines sexual harassment as physical contact and unlawful demands in verbal or nonverbal forms that cause psychological or physical harm to women and children [10]. Research at the University of Australia states that sexual violence is included in acts of physical and non-physical abuse [11]. Sexual violence can be committed and can occur to both men and women. However, the Law on the Elimination of Violence against Women considers sexual harassment an act of violence perpetrated against women [10].

Sexual violence has several classifications, including physical, non-physical, verbal, and through online intermediary media such as information and communication technology. Forms of sexual violence include whistling, teasing and commenting on the body, touching or touching sensitive parts intentionally, sending unwanted sexual content or material from the opposite sex, sending text messages and then directing the conversation in a sexual direction (including sending voice messages that smell In line with that, the Afghan Law on the Prohibition of Harassment against Women and Children also mentions other forms of sexual harassment, including touching, calling animals by name, winking, unwanted touching, kissing, hugging, comments and sexual acts, intrusive privacy questions, repeated phone calls, and sending messages that have sexual overtones [10]. Likewise, in Colorado, the United States classifies various forms of sexual violence, including verbal harassment, unwanted and unapproved touching, to rape, where this form of harassment can be done in person or online [12]. Not much

different, in South Korea, sexual violence has various forms, such as unwanted physical contact, sexual jokes, forced sexual intercourse, and rape [13]. Meanwhile, in Australia, the types of sexual violence behavior are physical compliments, subtle sexual comments, and sexual insults to touching [11]. In addition, places on campus corners have the potential to support sexual violence, such as corridors, hallways, quiet streets, bathrooms, and changing rooms, to online platforms. Studies in Afghanistan also found that female students are often harassed on online media, corridors, and sidewalks when traveling to and from universities [10].

The model for preventing sexual violence on Indonesian campuses starts with making binding regulations and has permanent legal force, namely in the form the Prevention and Handling of Sexual Violence in Higher Education. In addition, prevention is carried out by spreading information widely via social media such as Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, Twitter, Facebook, WhatsApp, and other social media. This is done because students are a digitally native generation who grew up in the era of social media. Prevention can also be done through talk shows, podcasts, pamphlets, promotions, or other public education media so that information and prevention activities can be reached. Similar to Afghanistan, a form of prevention of sexual violence was carried out by making a Non-discrimination and anti-harassment policy in universities in 2015. Then the policy was posted on large banners in faculty buildings; the university also carried out an awareness program with funding from LMS [10]. While in the United States, universities and colleges are looking at formulating prevention programs efficiently and cost-effectively, one of which is to increase women's ability to resist sexual assault and be accompanied by a decrease in sexual victimization [14]. In Vietnam, legal reforms were carried out to reduce sexual violence. In addition, the Global Consent program was implemented to reduce sexual violence behavior and increase the behavior of web-based prosocial observers. Global Consent requires a reciprocal relationship between social actors, personal actors, and behavior [8]. In Ghana, sexual violence prevention is carried out with Relationship Information which adapts a program created by the University of Michigan, USA [9].

Handling sexual violence at universities in Indonesia begins with making regulations or rules. Then from that regulation, a Special Task Force or Task Force was formed, tasked with handling cases of sexual violence on campus. The special task force then partners with other agencies that assist in the recovery of victims and prevent further action for perpetrators. Meanwhile, in Afghanistan, the gender directorate at each campus was tasked with handling and reporting incidents of harassment to the authorities, forming a complaint committee, and creating complaint boxes posted in various places on campus. However, this complaint box also did not work well, even though sexual harassment on campus was widespread. Reports to the university's gender directorate and complaints committee were also scanty. This was due to a lack of trust in the institution, so some cases of sexual harassment were not reported [10]. In contrast to Zambia, the handling of sexual violence is carried out in counseling centers. Counseling centers help victims of sexual violence develop emotional maturity by giving them space to express, feel, acknowledge, and manage their emotions. Then counseling and family centers also collaborate on aftercare services to build support [15].

4 Conclusion

The respondents were aware that sexual prevention in college was important. Preventing and handling cases of sexual violence is necessary. Our finding suggested that the Higher Education level must do something to prevent sexual violence among students. The idea of massive education, simple reporting and handling, thorough handling, protecting privacy, and not judging are expected by students. Our suggestion is each university must establish preventing and handling sexual violence team to facilitate better access for victims of sexual violence. Then universities need to make guidelines and mechanisms for preventing and handling sexual violence in universities that contain socialization and education and case resolutions that protect privacy, side with victims, and fulfill a sense of justice.

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