

Female Street Vendors in Domestic and Public Violence

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Abstract—This research takes the setting on street vendor community along the main road of Barru Regency, South Sulawesi. Patriarchal culture pattern of Barru people places men as the head household/family who are very strict. Woman tend to be considered as in the "second class". The purpose of this research is to examine the domestic and public violence on female street vendors. The method used in this research is rationalistic qualitative method.. The result shows that violence against the female street vendors is violence in the form of public and domestic violence. Public violence against the women is a violence which directly related to occupation violence in related to the customers/buyers, while domestic violence is violence related to family relationships. From public violence, woman experiencing psychic, economic and sexual violence. Psychic violence is violence which is associated to the mental aspects (rebuke, scorn, and deceit) experienced by the female street vendors. Economic violence is violence experienced by the female street vendors such as working overtime, while sexual violence is violence related to sexual harassment behavior perpetrated by the customer. A number of the violence above are public violence, while domestic violence is in the form of physical violence (beating), and economic violence in the form of women experiencing neglect of family economy. The tendency of the occurrence of domestic violence is directly proportional to public violence. The more frequent domestic violence happens, the more frequent public violence fluctuations increase. The more harmony of gender relations within the family happens, enabling also the alignment of female street vendor relationships with the male costumers.

Keywords—*Woman, Street Vendor, Violence, Domestic and Public.*

I. INTRODUCTION

This research uses street merchants along the main road in Barru Regency as the research setting. The target meant in this research is the object that is mostly acted as street merchants performed by women. The purpose of this research is revealing about what violence experienced by the female street merchants in public and domestic domain is. In some perspectives about violence, the violence towards female street merchants can be observed by using some perspectives, i.e.: functional, conflict, structuralism, and modern.[1] In functional perspective, the violence towards women is considered that women are the people who deserve the violence. Woman is an object that is usually considered

as the one that cannot compete with men since their natural physique is weak while men are strong. This structural-functional viewpoint is supported by patriarchs that preserve the dominance of men in domestic life or public domain. In other case, different from structural-functional, the conflict view declares that female violence might be caused by the difference of economic control. The access of economic control by the economic control holder is an instrument of gender relation between men and women.[2], [3]. The bigger economic control is, the bigger achievement obtained by the economic control holder is. On the contrary, the smaller economic control they have, the bigger chance of violence they will get. This understanding in domestic domain based on the viewpoint of, no different than, each husband and wife are employer and employee.[4] The statement places economy as the main control in giving pressure or preserving the female violence in a relationship and gender roles.[3], [5]

In structuralism viewpoint, the violence towards street women may be caused by binary factor.[6] Binary can be defined as dualism understanding; male – female, persistent – breakable, hot- cold, active – passive and so on. In this case, binary aspect considers the males are constructed and they are born to have persistent, hot, and active characters. Meanwhile, the characteristic of breakable, cold and passive is usually the female position. The different concept is a viewpoint that can place the street women in second class and it surely justifies and gives a chance for doing violence towards women.[7] By considering that thing, the thing that is the source for doing violence towards women is the job allocation for women. The job allocation of female merchant can be consisted of job allocation for household matters (domestic) and job allocation outside the household matters. Both job allocations are usually called as economical and non-economical allocation.

II. RESEARCH METHODS

The method used in this research was qualitative method with rationalist perspective. This method attempted to reveal the research questions by according to rationalist assumptions in the research objectives. In addition, by using this approach, the researcher attempted to find out the ‘meaning’ of the empirical phenomenon. So, it allows the

researcher to reveal the purpose of this research by based on rational and reliable data.[8]–[10]. The objective of this research was female street merchants along the main road of Barru Regency. The selection of location for this research was ‘purposely’ done according to the purpose that had significant meaning as the objective of this research that had been chosen based on the focus of this research. The reason of choosing the objective for this research was Barru regency that has the largest amount of street merchant than other regencies in South Sulawesi. Besides, according to the previous studies, Barru regency is regency that the community of street merchant often experiences violence. The technique for data collection in this research was by using interview, observation and documentation. Documentation is a tracer technique from some secondary data. This data was complementary data that can be basic instruments in collecting primary data from the informant. Interview is about asking some questions to some informants directly about what they had experienced or what they had seen that was relevant to the purpose of the research.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The violence towards the female merchants in Barru, in public domain, is a violence experienced by the women and it is related to social interaction and their profession as street merchants. There are some types of violence in public domain experienced by female street merchants, i.e.: First, physical and psychic violence experienced by female street merchants in form of verbal violence and scolding from the customers. Most of customers scold the female street merchants when the women are considered giving bad services or when the customers drunk. Second, psychic violence is a violence related to mental aspect and feeling that allow someone feels their mental and feeling is being hurt by the actions of other people. In this research findings, some cases of psychic violence that had ever happened, i.e.: 1). Case A, a female street merchant that sells various products lends his money to a lender in a long period, but the lender does not want to pay back their money; 2) Case B, a merchant of food stall for prostitute purpose does not feel good since they are considered giving less than good service, so they receive scolding from the customers; and 3). Case C, the female street merchant usually gets some slanders, they consider as whores or immoral women. These several cases about female street merchants are receiving violence in some modus, i.e.: (1). Money lending. The men borrow the money from the female street merchant and the men do not pay back their money at a period that had been agreed, (2). Services. The women experience some violence because they are considered bad in giving the services to the male customers; (3). Slander/verbal harassment. The women will get some slanders for their job since they work almost 24 hours.

Those several modus often haunt the female street merchants when they do some activities related to their job. Several violences experienced by the women are the impact of consequences for the job that the women do in public domain. In this case, it had been understood that the violence

happened caused by some factors, i.e.: 1) the female street merchants communicate directly toward men in public domain; 2). The women do not really understand about several violences they have experienced; 3). The job done by the female merchants for almost 24 hours makes them tired and it, of course, influences their performance in giving services towards male customers that are mostly impolite and they do not understand the women condition. In other case, the violence that sometimes experienced by the female street merchants is sexual violence. This sexual violence can be in form of verbal sexual harassment or sexual assault. Verbal sexual abuse is related to impolite words or attitude that can be received as harassment towards women. Meanwhile, sexual assault is a violence done by the customers in form of holding the women hands, stroking hair or even hugging without the women consent. These kinds of violence are categorized as sexual harassment. Relevant to sexual harassment, the several modus used by the men to do sexual harassment are as follows: 1). Joking. Some men usually just make some jokes. The jokes made by the men sometimes are impolite. 2). Playing around, most of drivers from far place come to take a rest then they pretend to be friendly towards women and they suddenly stroke the women hair or touch their bodies. 3). Do it purposely. The men do it purposely by stating that they look for “immoral women”; these words that is a signal that they have intention to find whores/immoral women certainly offend the female street merchants who are simply sell and expect customers/buyers buying their goods.

Besides the violences in public domain that has been explained above, the violence towards the female street merchants in Barru regency is also happened in domestic domain. The violence in domestic domain experienced by the female street merchants is considered as the violence in household life. This kind of violence is done by their husbands or other members in family towards the female street merchants. In this research, the violence in domestic domain is in form of psychic and physical violence. The psychic violence that is experienced by the women in household life is mental aspect. It is about a feeling occurred as the impact of their husband’s or other male members’ of the family actions. This violence is in form of bellowing, scolding, insulting and any other psychic violence. Meanwhile, the physical violence is a violence experienced by the female street merchants related to the physical actions from their husbands or their male relatives. This violence is in form of hitting the women.

Those less human behavior experienced by the female street merchants as an impact of violence in domestic domain brings big impact in their household harmoniousness life. By paying attention on the explanation above, there are some factors which allow the psychic violence happens towards the female street merchants, i.e.: (1). Economic factor. Fixed income deficit from the husband influences the husband’s psychological aspect, (2). Jealousy/suspicion. The husband’s jealousy/suspicion towards the customers of the female street merchant makes them treat their wife/their female relatives crudely. In addition, by seeing the

phenomenon of violence happened in street women shows that the violence happened in household life is directly proportional to the violence happened outside the household life. The more often the domestic violence happens, the higher intensity of public violence happens. The more harmonious the relationship among genders in a family, the more harmonious the relationship between the female street merchant and the male consumers is. Besides those various kinds of violence experienced by the female street merchants, the female street merchants have big urgent contribution in solving economic problem in their family. The elaboration of this study is trying to discuss the theory/concept which refers to the research findings. In functional perspective, the violence towards the female street merchants is considered as common since women are usually considered as weaker than men. For street merchant community that is considered as patriarchy, the violence experienced by most of women tends to be an integral part of societal lifestyle. In that circumstance, the female street merchants are treated inferior and they are easily experience the violence. It is different in conflict perspective. What has been happened in female street merchants is an access and weak economic control even they have saved the economic condition in their family and they are considered as the economic pillar. On the other hand, the structuralism viewpoint considers women as subordinated people because of the binary factors, i.e.: men-women, strong-weak, active-passive, that is a viewpoint that brings women as weak human symbolically, i.e. weak and passive. Besides, it has been understood that what has been experienced by the female street merchants is a part of consequences of a job they do. In domestic domain, women also do washing, cooking, sweeping and some other domestic activities. This understanding has weakened the female position as 'the household member'. Therefore, in line with Hidayati (2015), he states that the female position in domestic domain is only as a mother, a wife and/or a girl [11], [12]. It is also in line with what has been stated by Saadawi (in Ismail, 2017) that the domestic role is as a part of dedication. However, in domestic domain, women are related to some jobs-social or societal works. This shows how urgent the roles acted by the women, however, they are still considered as second class people and they are easily received violence.

According to Ismail (2017) that had been done the study about the female street merchants, clarifies that the female street merchants are women who works along the main road and they are considered as people who are easily received some violences and live by dedicating their life as breadwinner by selling their goods/food along the road. Meanwhile, the trading style in taking economical opportunity is less understood the female street merchants. Ismail (2017) explains further about it; he states that the female street merchants use various strategies in developing their business to get more profit. It is also a part of their strategy to guarantee the consumer satisfaction, to increase the customer trust and to create an attractive capacity through body language, kindness and giving extra service. Those are

relevant viewpoint in this study. The violence towards the female street merchant is deviant behavior towards norms that are applicable in society. The violence towards women is an action considered as anomie that is an uncommon action in civilized society context or social deviance that resulted in social disorganization with non functional parts of family or household function in society. So, the impact will be broken home or social disorganization. Besides, the social impact from the violence towards women is social dehumanization in society, cultural lag – lacking of social foundations in society.

IV. CONCLUSION

The culture model of society in Barru is strong kinship of patriarchy. The appreciation and position of men is as the head of household/family. The women tend to be "second class" people even though they are considered having big contribution for building family economy. The violence towards the female street merchants in Barru regency is a violence that happened in form of public and domestic violence. The public violence has strong relationship with the violence when working and it is related to the customers/buyers. Meanwhile, the violence in domestic domain is a violence related to family relationship. Psychic, physical and sexual violence is the violence experienced by the female street merchants in public domain. Psychic violence is a violence related to mental aspect experienced by the female merchants. Physical violence is a violence that is characterized by physical actions (a slap, a kick and etc) experienced by women. Meanwhile, sexual violence is related to sexual harassment actions (touching, kissing, hugging and the like) without the women consent. The social impact on the violence towards women causes anomie of social deviance in society.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The researcher gives high appreciation to the Government of Barru Residence for giving permission to the research to be held in their authority. Special appreciation also given to all informants who are faithfully sharing valuable information to us so that all data needed in the research can be collected.

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