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Topic: Strengthening Legal Frameworks for Combating Human Trafficking and Enhancing Protection of Women and Children

Optimizing the Eradication of Violence Against Women in Pati Regency

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Abstract. Violence against women remains an issue that has not been optimally addressed, and this is also the case in Pati Regency. The Pati Social Services, Women's Empowerment, Child Protection, and Family Planning Agency (Dinsos P3AKB) handled 36 cases of violence against women in 2024. Meanwhile, in 2023, there were 105 complaints of violence against women, including sexual violence, physical violence, domestic violence, and human trafficking. The approach method used is a qualitative method, namely a method that focusing on the general principles underlying the manifestation of units of symptoms that exist in human life, or the patterns analyzed are socio-cultural symptoms with the culture of the society concerned to obtain an overview of the prevailing patterns. Based on the studies conducted, it can be seen that The eradication of violence against women is currently ineffective, given the persistently high number of cases, including in Pati Regency, which has reached 10 cases with 22 suspects. Obstacles to eradicating violence against women currently include public awareness of the importance of preventing and combating violence against women, as well as the limited facilities, infrastructure, and personnel available for police to handle violence against women.

Keywords: Crime; Eradication; Violence; Women.

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1. Introduction

Hunnicut's view is also in line with the views of Fransiska Novita Eleanora and Edy Supriyanto in their article entitled "Violence against Women and Patriarchal Culture in Indonesia", in their article, they state that:

Violence against women and its influence on patriarchal culture can occur in all aspects and not only violence in the domestic sphere but also other violence such as physical violence at work or psychological or can also be acts of rape, sexual harassment into the realm of violence, violence can also occur due to emotions such as cursing and shouting at women and saying words that are not appropriate or appropriate to her.

Based on the views of Fransiska Novita Eleanora and Edy Supriyanto above, it can be seen that the impact of patriarchal culture on violence against women can occur in all aspects and not only violence in the domestic sphere but also other violence such as physical violence in the workplace or psychological or can also be in the form of rape, sexual harassment is included in the realm of violence, violence can also occur due to emotions such as cursing and shouting at women and saying words that are inappropriate or inappropriate for them.¹

The number of cases of Violence Against Women (VAW) reported to the National Commission on Violence Against Women (Komnas Perempuan) and its CATAHU partners in 2024 was 445,502. This number represents an increase of 43,527 cases, or approximately 9.77%, compared to 2023 (401,975). The number of complaints received by Komnas Perempuan in 2024 was 4,178 cases, a decrease of 4.48% from the previous year. Despite the decrease in the number of cases reported, the average number of complaints to Komnas Perempuan was 16 cases per day.²The Pati Department of Social Affairs, Women's Empowerment, Child Protection, and Family Planning (Dinsos P3AKB) handled 36 cases of violence against women in 2024. Meanwhile, in 2023, there were 105 complaints of violence against women, including sexual violence, physical violence, domestic violence, and human trafficking. In 2024, there were only 36 cases because only 36 victims filed complaints, while many cases of violence against women remain reluctant to report them.³

¹Fransiska Novita Eleanora and Edy Supriyanto, "Violence against Women and Patriarchal Culture in Indonesia," *International Journal of Multicultural and Multireligious Understanding (IJMMU)*, Vol. 7, No. 9, 2020, p. 48.

²National Commission for the Protection of Women, "Executive Summary "Organizing Data, Sharpening Direction: Reflections on Documentation and Trends in Cases of Violence Against

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According to the National Commission for the Protection of Women, violence against women can have fatal consequences, including death, suicide attempts, and HIV/AIDS infection. Furthermore, violence against women can also have non-fatal consequences, such as physical health problems, chronic conditions, mental disorders, unhealthy behaviors, and reproductive health problems. Both fatal and non-fatal consequences reduce women's quality of life.⁴

The fact that there is still a high number of violence against women in Indonesia, with a low number of victims who are aware of reporting to law enforcement, is a concern for the life of the nation and state, resulting in the mandate of Article 28G of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia and Article 33 paragraph (1) of Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 39 of 1999 concerning Human Rights not being able to be realized in real terms, this automatically also deviates from the important mandate of Pancasila, especially the Second and Fifth Principles.

2. Research Methods

The approach method used is a qualitative method, namely a method that focusing on the general principles underlying the manifestation of units of symptoms that exist in human life, or the patterns analyzed are socio-cultural symptoms with the culture of the society concerned to obtain an overview of the prevailing patterns.⁵

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Optimizing the Eradication of Criminal Acts of Violence Against Women in Pati Regency Currently

Women 2024" Annual Report on Violence Against Women 2024 March 7, 2025", [https://komnasperempuan.go.id/download-file/1316#:~:text=Throughout%20the%20year%202024%2C%20of%20total,235%20cases%20\(Letter%20of%20Clarification%20155\)](https://komnasperempuan.go.id/download-file/1316#:~:text=Throughout%20the%20year%202024%2C%20of%20total,235%20cases%20(Letter%20of%20Clarification%20155)), April 30, 2025, 10:42 WIB.

³Gatra.com, "Cases of Violence Against Women and Children on the Rise in Pati, Social Services: Many Cases Go Unrecorded", <https://www.gatra.com/news-602455-regional-marak-kasus-kekerasan-perempuan-anak-di-pati-dinsos-yang-tak-tercatat-banyak.html>, April 30, 2025, 10:42 WIB.

⁴National Commission for the Protection of Women, "Uncovering the Mystery Behind Women's Pain: A Study of the Impact of Violence Against Women on Women's Health Status in DKI Jakarta Province and DI Yogyakarta Province", <https://komnasperempuan.go.id/pemetaan-kajian-prosiding-detail/menguak-misteri-di-balik-kesakitan-perempuan-kajian-dampak-kekerasan-terhadap-perempuan-status-kesehatan-perempuan-di-propinsi-dki-jakarta-dan-propinsi-di-yogyakarta>, April 30, 2025, 10:42 WIB.

⁵Burhan Ashshofa, 1996, Legal Research Methods, PT. Rineka Cipta, Jakarta, pp. 20-21.

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After two years of the enactment of the TPKS Law, documentation of sexual violence cases can categorize the forms of violence according to the types in the TPKS Law. Sexual harassment, both physical and non-physical, is recorded higher than rape cases, indicating an increasing public understanding that sexual harassment is a reportable crime. Fulfillment of the rights of TPKS victims is not optimal because in the new policy system, 4 (four) implementing regulations of the TPKS Law have been passed and 3 (three) implementing regulations have not been ratified by the President, not all Provinces/Districts/Regencies have formed UPTD PPA as the main implementers of the TPKS Law, TPKS education and training for law enforcement officers and service institutions is not yet systematic. The rights of women victims of rape and other sexual violence to comprehensive reproductive health, including safe abortion services, have not been optimally obtained. There are vulnerabilities for Women Human Rights Defenders, women with disabilities, women with HIV/AIDS, and indigenous women. There has been an increase in violence against Women Human Rights Defenders (PPHAM), especially psychological and physical violence, perpetrated by state officials, corporations, and intolerant groups. Women with disabilities face multiple layers of discrimination that increase the risk of violence, particularly sexual violence, with individuals with mental and intellectual disabilities being the most vulnerable. Sexual minorities experience vulnerability due to their sexual expression, with boyfriends being the primary perpetrators in the private sphere, and friends and strangers in the public sphere. Law enforcement officials and companies, who should be protecting them, are instead the perpetrators of intimidation and discrimination. The violence experienced includes verbal abuse, threats, extortion, economic exploitation, and online gender-based violence (GBV). Discrimination also occurs in public facilities, such as commuter trains, in the form of verbal harassment, access restrictions, and traumatic identity checks. Women living with HIV/AIDS experience violence and discrimination in personal, public, and state settings, including restrictions on access to health information and forced sterilization. Indigenous women face territorial dispossession, multiple economic burdens, health impacts from natural resource exploitation, and obstacles to registering marriages in the civil registration system. These various forms of gender-based violence can lead to femicide. Data from the National Commission on Violence Against Women shows that femicide often occurs in the private sphere, with husbands or boyfriends as perpetrators, as well as in the public sphere, where victims often experience sexual violence before being killed. In 2024, violations of fair trial and maternity rights continued to occur against women in conflict with the law. The National Commission on Violence Against Women (Komnas Perempuan) recorded various forms of criminalization and legal injustice, particularly against elderly women, women with disabilities, girls, and women who are victims of unwanted pregnancies (KTD).and women in the

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entertainment industry. These cases demonstrate that criminal law fails to address gender inequality, discrimination, exploitation, and structural pressures experienced by women. Women on death row in prisons face uncertainty while awaiting execution, leading to prolonged psychological suffering. Limited access to psychological services, suboptimal legal assistance, and the practice of a judicial mafia further exacerbate their situation. The death penalty for women is often imposed without considering socioeconomic vulnerability, gender inequality, and the involvement of intimate partners in their cases. This situation reflects the injustice of a legal system that still does not favor women, necessitating legal reform and increased access to fairer and more transparent justice. Women's leadership in the political sphere still requires affirmative support due to a culture that views women as unfit for leadership and the persistence of gender-based discrimination. This is evident in cases of violence, including threats and intimidation against female legislative candidates and regional heads. Furthermore, mechanisms for preventing and addressing gender-based violence at every stage of the election and related institutions are not yet comprehensively available. The National Commission on Violence Against Women (Komnas Perempuan) is developing an understanding of violence against women in elections as a form of gender-based violence aimed at limiting women's political participation. Female workers in both the formal and informal sectors continue to face criminalization, physical violence, and sexual harassment in the workplace. The differences in recognition between formal and informal workers result in unequal legal protection. Domestic workers (PRT) face high risks, including violence and death, while the pending ratification of the PPRT Bill further exacerbates their vulnerability. Cases of human trafficking (TPPO) against migrant and domestic workers continue to evolve, employing new methods, such as campus internships, recruitment via social media, and agency fraud. Victims experience labor exploitation, physical violence, and breaches of employment contracts, both at home and abroad. Efforts to address TPPO are often hampered by slow legal processes and unfair resolutions. The Constitutional Court's Decision No. 168/PUU-XXI/2023, which revoked and revised 21 articles in the Job Creation Law, represents a significant step forward in protecting workers' rights. This revision opens up opportunities for improvements to the Labor Law, including increased protection for female workers with special conditions and vulnerabilities, such as home workers. In 2024, a number of laws and regulations were enacted that present both challenges and opportunities to foster more conducive conditions for eliminating violence against women. At the national level,⁴ (four) implementing regulations of the TPKS Law have been ratified, namely (i) Presidential Decree Number 9 of 2024 concerning the Implementation of Education and Training for the Prevention and Handling of Crimes of Sexual Violence, (ii) Presidential Decree Number 55 of 2024 concerning the Regional

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Technical Implementation Unit for the Protection of Women and Children (UPTD PPA), (iii) PP Number 27 of 2024 concerning Coordination and Monitoring of TPKS, (iv) Presidential Decree (Perpres) Number 98 of 2024 concerning the Implementation of Integrated Services in Handling, Protection, and Recovery of Crimes of Sexual Violence by the Central Government. There are still 3 (three) implementing regulations of the TPKS Law that have not been ratified, namely: (i) RanPP concerning the Prevention, Handling, Protection, and Recovery of Victims of Crimes of Sexual Violence, RanPP on Assistance Funds for TPKS Victims and (iii) RanPerpres concerning Policies for the Eradication of Acts of Sexual Violence. Even though the TPKS Law mandates that all implementing regulations be formed after two years of its enactment. The delay in the formation of these laws and regulations has resulted in the fulfillment of the rights of TPKS victims not being optimal.⁶

Several bills related to the elimination of violence against women and other policies were delayed during the 2019-2024 DPR period, reflecting the tug-of-war of political interests and legislative priorities. These include: (i) the Indigenous Peoples (MHA) Bill was included in the Priority Bills since 2020, but was not designated as a DPR Initiative Bill until 2024, requiring a repeat of the legislative process. (ii) the Domestic Workers Protection Bill (PPRT Bill) received widespread support, including from the National Commission on Violence Against Women, but did not reach Level I deliberations by the end of the DPR period. This bill returned to the 2024-2029 legislative planning stage and was designated as a 2025 Priority Bill. (iii) the Narcotics Bill has undergone Level I deliberations in Commission III of the DPR RI and is included in the 2025-2029 National Legislation Program. The delay of these three bills demonstrates the policy of the government and the DPR RI in determining legislative priorities. There is an expansion of efforts to institutionalize the prevention of violence against women encouraged by the National Commission on Violence Against Women, through: (1) Basic Training for Prospective ASN Adopting HAMBG and Social Inclusion; (2) Rapid Response Mechanism for PPHAM Protection; (3) Collaboration with Ministries/Institutions, namely Prevention and Handling of Sexual Violence in the Election Supervisory Environment, synergy of violence against women databases, preservation of women's struggle archives and Cooperation for the Prevention of Torture (KuPP). KBGO reported to the National Commission on Violence Against Women in 2024 increased by 40.8% compared to 2023 data. The increase in the number of KBGO reported appears to be influenced by the increasing awareness of victims. Victims

⁶Loc, cit.

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and perpetrators/reported in KBGO cases have a well-known relationship both in physical space and in cyberspace.⁷

Sexual violence is any form of action that includes sexual harassment to coercion of someone to engage in sexual activity without consent or against the will of the victim. This includes sexual acts carried out in an inappropriate/undesirable manner by the victim (. In Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning Criminal Acts of Sexual Violence (UU TPKS), TPKS is defined as any act that fulfills the elements of a criminal act consisting of non-physical sexual harassment, physical sexual harassment, forced contraception, forced sterilization, forced marriage, sexual torture, sexual exploitation, sexual slavery, and electronic-based sexual violence. Most victims of sexual violence are women. Data from SIMFONI PPA states that since January 1, 2025, there have been 5,950 cases of violence involving women as victims.

The single factor causing violence against women is the imbalance in power relations or gender injustice between men and women, which can occur in all situations, such as men's more dominant role compared to women in decision-making within the family, in society, and in the workplace. The existence of gender inequality in society often results in the emergence of power-based sexual violence. Patriarchal culture gives privileges to men and places women in a position of control, resulting in frequent physical and psychologically degrading treatment. Women are vulnerable to sexual violence due to societal values that position women in positions of subordination, marginalization, control, and exploitation. Economic conditions can also trigger violence against women. Rising prices for basic necessities, increasing healthcare costs, and various other needs can lead to violence. Conversely, economic surplus can also lead to violence, as women become overly dependent on men with high incomes, making men feel increasingly powerful over them.⁸

Another triggering factor is religion. There's a growing perception that wives must obey their husbands and must not be challenged. Husbands use religious arguments that permit beating their wives. If violence occurs within the family and inappropriate actions are committed, this is more likely due to misinterpretation or misuse of religious teachings, rather than because the religion itself promotes violence. Therefore, it's crucial to improve the understanding and practice of religious teachings in everyday life. Similarly, economic and religious factors can also trigger sexual violence. In the case of the pornographic video in Ngada, the

⁷Loc, cit.

⁸Riza Asyari Yamin and Sali Susiana, "Sexual Violence Against Women in the Context of Power Relations," Pusaka, Vol. XVII, No. 8, 2025, p. 3.

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perpetrator possessed economic power and was willing to spend large sums of money to satisfy his desires. Meanwhile, in the case of sexual harassment at the Islamic boarding school, religion played a role because the perpetrator was a respected religious figure.⁹

The high rate of violence against women also occurs in Pati Regency, according to the Acting Head of the Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (PPPA) Division, Eko Suwarno, from January to August 2024, the Pati Regency Social Services, Women, Children, and Family Planning Empowerment and Protection Service (DinsosP3AKB) recorded 63 cases of violence against women in Pati Regency. Meanwhile, from January to March 2025, there were 47 cases of violence against women.¹⁰ In 2025, Pati Police Station recorded 10 cases of violent crimes, with 22 suspects. These cases included assaults and violence uncovered during Operation Aman Candi 2025. More specifically, the cases occurred in Pati Regency, which is part of Pati Regency, Central Java.¹¹ The most concerning case of violence against women in Pati is the case of a mother dying while hugging her baby.

The body of a woman with the initials B (31) was found by local residents in a rented house in Kutoharjo Village, Pati District/Regency. Based on an investigation by the Pati Police Criminal Investigation Unit, it was discovered that suspect M had abused the victim, causing her death. Police said B died because she was triggered by violence perpetrated by her partner. Police revealed that M's motive for abusing B, which led to the victim's death, was that the suspect was allegedly jealous of his wife, B (31). The suspect then suddenly assaulted the victim. The suspect said he committed violence because the victim forbade him from looking at his cellphone and suddenly felt jealous. This case occurred in 2023.¹²

The main problem in law enforcement in cases of violence against women is a societal culture that considers women vulnerable to intervention and weak, making them vulnerable to violence in a patriarchal society. This culture has resulted in a culture of harassment and violence against women that cannot be contained. Furthermore, the limited number of personnel and limited information in the field, as well as a culture where victims, mostly from underprivileged communities, are afraid to report cases to the police due to a lack of confidence

⁹*Loc, cit.*

¹⁰Interview with Eko Suwarno as Acting Head of the Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (PPPA) Division on April 10, 2025.

¹¹Interview with IPDA Iswantoro as Head of PPA Pores Pati on May 1, 2025.

¹²Interview with Police Commissioner Heri Dwi Utomo as Head of Criminal Investigation Unit of Pati Police on May 12, 2025.

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in the possibility of obtaining justice through legal channels.¹³ This matters shows that full enforcement is considered unrealistic due to limitations in time, personnel, and resources. Nihyatul revealed that the dogma of criminal law regarding women as victims of violence has not been able to realize the recovery of victims' losses, but only focuses on criminalizing the act and punishing the perpetrator alone, making it very difficult to convince victims that there is a guarantee of recovery of losses for victims through criminal law channels.¹⁴ This situation shows that protection for women victims of violence, especially in Pati Regency, is not optimal.

3.2. Obstacles in Eradicating Criminal Acts of Violence Against Women Today

The eradication of criminal acts of violence against women has not been optimal in Pati Regency due to the following obstacles:

a. Stigma and Patriarchal Culture:

- 1) Stigma related to sexual violence, such as shame or fear, often makes victims reluctant to report cases.
- 2) The dominant patriarchal culture also becomes a barrier, because often victims feel unsupported or untrusted by family, friends, or even society.

b. Lack of Legal Awareness:

- 1) Many people do not yet understand about criminal acts of violence against women, including the forms of violence that occur and the rights of victims.
- 2) Lack of legal knowledge can also cause victims to not know the correct procedures for reporting cases.

c. Lack of Adequate Regulation:

- 1) There are no laws and regulations that specifically regulate violence in dating relationships.

¹³Interview with Nihyatul Mukharomah as an advocacy companion for women victims of violence from LRC-KJHAM on March 11, 2025.

¹⁴*Loc, cit.*

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- 2) The implementation of the TPKS Law also still faces obstacles, such as a lack of socialization and implementation of its implementing regulations.

d. Law enforcer:

- 1) Some law enforcement officers do not yet understand the principles of handling cases of violence against women properly, so that they often burden the victims in the process of providing evidence.
- 2) Lack of personnel, facilities and infrastructure, and training are also obstacles in handling this case.

e. Other Factors:

- 1) Cyber gender-based violence (GBV) is also a growing problem, especially during the pandemic.
- 2) The difficulty of finding perpetrators who have fled is also a challenge for investigators.

According to IPDA Iswantoro as Head of the PPA Unit of the Pati Police, the obstacles in eradicating criminal acts of violence against women are:

- a. When perpetrators of sexual violence against women learn that they have been reported to the police by the victim, the reported perpetrators will usually flee and hide in certain areas/districts before being arrested by investigators. Investigators often have difficulty finding perpetrators who have fled and become fugitives. Investigators from the Pati Police have coordinated with the Central Java Regional Police to track perpetrators of sexual violence against women who often flee throughout Central Java. If no concrete results are obtained, the Central Java Regional Police will share information on the wanted list with all police stations in Indonesia to track the whereabouts of the escaped perpetrators.
- b. Investigators face time constraints in processing the files of the crime. With the limited time given to uncover the crime, investigators have difficulty completing the case files within the specified target. This is different from domestic violence cases where case files can be completed within the given time target. For example: for files from domestic violence crimes, the target given is one month, but the files can be completed or revealed before the one month. In contrast, for sexual violence crimes, the given time limit is one

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month, but they cannot be revealed before the one month. These files can only be completed or revealed after months or even years. This is because the number or quota of investigators is experiencing a shortage of personnel. Currently, the number of investigators in the PPA Unit of the Pati Police is only 8 (eight) investigators who uncover crimes of sexual violence against women in Pati Regency. In the current situation, one investigator must uncover around 9-10 Police Reports, so investigators must work extra hard. The number of personnel is far in comparison to the size of the Pati Regency area and its population, so that the implementation of uncovering crimes of sexual violence against women in Pati is still less than optimal.

- c. The lack of information about the perpetrator also makes it increasingly difficult for investigators to find the perpetrator. Investigators have difficulty tracking the whereabouts of the perpetrator who fled without knowing his face and his cellphone signal was no longer active. The information obtained by investigators is only information about his physical characteristics, home address, telephone number, and the perpetrator's current whereabouts, making it difficult for investigators to determine clearly. This is also because much of the information provided by the perpetrator's relatives, the victim, and the victim's family often differs from the results of investigators' searches in the field.
- d. Investigators had difficulty obtaining information from victims experiencing severe trauma. A woman experiencing severe trauma makes her vulnerable to questioning regarding the sexual violence she experienced. Victims experiencing severe psychological trauma are those who have suffered sodomy or molestation.
- e. In investigations into sexual violence against women, one of the steps investigators take to obtain evidence is to conduct a post-mortem examination. However, most victims and their families who undergo post-mortem examinations come from economically disadvantaged families. Victims and their families often object to the cost of the relatively expensive post-mortem examination. Those who object are families of victims who have experienced severe trauma.
- f. Lack of adequate facilities and infrastructure for investigation and disclosure of crimes of violence against women in the PPA Unit of the Pati Police, namely a narrow investigation area, office equipment that is not covered by the government such as computer equipment, cupboards for storing files and tables and chairs so that investigators do it themselves, there is less than



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optimal use of the investigation room, limited funds or costs to investigate a crime.

Various existing obstacles mean that the objectives of criminal law have not yet been realized in eradicating criminal acts of violence against women. According to the combined theory, the purpose of punishment is always to repay the criminal's mistakes and is also intended to protect society by creating order with the provision that the severity of punishment should not exceed the limits of just retribution. In essence, punishment always protects society and retribution for unlawful acts that punishment contains other things, namely that punishment is expected to be something that will bring harmony and as an educational process to make people re-accepted in society. Joseph Goldstein's law enforcement theory emphasizes the concept of "actual enforcement" or actual law enforcement, which is different from "full enforcement" or total law enforcement. "Full enforcement" is considered unrealistic due to limitations in time, personnel, and resources. "Actual enforcement" recognizes these limitations and allows the use of discretion in law enforcement, so that law enforcement can run realistically and effectively.

4. Conclusion

The eradication of violence against women is currently ineffective, given the persistently high number of cases, including in Pati Regency, which has reached 10 cases with 22 suspects. Obstacles to eradicating violence against women currently include public awareness of the importance of preventing and combating violence against women, as well as the limited facilities, infrastructure, and personnel available for police to handle violence against women.

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