

Analysis of Legal Protection for Women Victims of Violence in Demak Regency

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Abstract. *Protection of women as human beings with dignity is a fundamental human right. This protection is rooted in the principle of gender equality and the recognition of the dignity and worth of women as individuals equal to men. This protection includes the right to live free from violence, discrimination, and exploitation, as well as the right to participate fully in all aspects of life. The purpose of this study is to identify and analyze the types and forms of violence experienced by women in Demak Regency. To identify and analyze the implementation of legal protection for women victims of violence in Demak Regency. To identify and analyze the obstacles faced and strategic solutions in implementing legal protection for women victims of violence in Demak Regency. The approach used by the researcher is a sociological-juridical approach. This research is descriptive. The sources and types of data in this study are primary data obtained through interviews and secondary data obtained from literature studies. The data is analyzed qualitatively using legal protection theory, law enforcement theory, and victimology theory. Based on the results of the study, the types of violence experienced by women in Demak Regency are diverse, including physical, psychological, sexual, and economic violence. Psychological and economic violence tends to be the most common type. The contributing factors include patriarchal culture, gender inequality, low legal understanding, and social stigma against victims. The forms of violence experienced by women in Demak Regency include domestic violence, sexual violence, psychological violence, and economic violence. Domestic violence still dominates, with physical and psychological violence being interrelated. The main factors causing this violence are patriarchal culture, gender inequality, weak legal understanding, and social stigma against victims. The implementation of legal protection for female victims of violence in Demak Regency already exists, but is not yet evenly distributed and optimal. Victim assistance needs to be strengthened, both legally, psychologically, and socio-economically. Legal education for the community and training of law enforcement officers must be improved to*

increase the effectiveness of implementation. Strengthening coordination between agencies and increasing the capacity of service institutions needs to be further enhanced. The effective implementation of legal protection for female victims of violence can reduce the impact of violence against women and increase a sense of security in the community. Obstacles and Strategic Solutions in the Implementation of Legal Protection for Female Victims of Violence in Demak Regency encompasses socio-cultural aspects, legal procedures, and limited facilities/resources. The strategic solutions implemented are integrated, involving educational efforts, regulatory strengthening, and facility improvements. Implementation of these strategies is expected to increase victims' access to legal protection, reduce levels of violence, and strengthen women's empowerment in Demak Regency.

Keywords: Legal; Protection; Victims; Violence; Women.

1. Introduction

All forms of violence, particularly domestic violence, constitute a violation of human rights, a crime against human dignity, and a form of discrimination that must be eliminated. Victims of domestic violence, most of whom are women, must receive protection from the state and society to avoid and be free from violence or threats of violence, torture, or treatment that degrades human dignity.

Article 28 G Paragraph (1) of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia states:

"Everyone has the right to protection of themselves, their families, their honor, their dignity and the property under their control, and has the right to a sense of security and protection from the threat of fear to do or not do something that is a basic human right."

Article 1 of Law Number 39 of 1999 states that Human Rights are a set of rights inherent in the nature and existence of humans as creatures of God Almighty, and are His gifts which must be respected, upheld and protected by the state, law, government and every person for the sake of honor and protection of human dignity and honor.¹

¹ Law Number 39 of 1999 concerning Human Rights, Article 1

In essence, laws are created to protect the interests of every citizen. Laws carry strict sanctions. Therefore, every citizen must act in accordance with existing regulations. The purpose of laws is to prevent arbitrary actions by certain parties.²

The Criminal Code (KUHP) actually stipulates provisions regarding criminal sanctions for perpetrators of sexual violence, but in reality, this crime still occurs in many places and is hidden in society. It is not uncommon for these cases to escape the clutches of applicable law, some even stopping at the stage of investigation by the police or prosecutors, thus not reaching the court process. To achieve success in law enforcement in eradicating the rampant cases of sexual violence, strengthening serious coordination and cooperation between police officers, prosecutors, and judges in the courts is essential. The verdicts of judges examining sexual violence cases in various courts vary. In fact, in some cases of child sexual violence, the sentence is only a mere six months' imprisonment. This is justified because within the maximum and minimum limits (one day to twelve years) the judge is free to determine the appropriate sentence.³

The development of law in Indonesia itself is very dynamic and always changing following the development of society, legal developments especially in the development of criminal (material) and criminal procedural law (formal) outside the territory of Indonesia KUHP (Criminal Code Book) and the Criminal Procedure Code (Indonesian Book of Criminal Procedure Law) which are currently in force. This is because the basic rules of the Criminal Procedure Code (material) of the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code (formal) of the Criminal Procedure Code which are old legal products that have not been updated or revised, only revisions / material tests of articles in both laws and regulations do not replace / revise the entire Criminal Code or Criminal Procedure Code.⁴

Protection of women as human beings with dignity is a fundamental human right. This protection is rooted in the principle of gender equality and the recognition of women's dignity and worth as individuals equal to men. This protection includes the right to live free from violence, discrimination, and exploitation, as well as the right to participate fully in all aspects of life.

Violence against women remains one of the most serious and complex social and legal issues in Indonesia today. According to the Convention on the Elimination of

²Vidi Pradinata, 2020, Legal Protection for Victims of Domestic Violence (KDRT), Khaira Ummah Law Journal Vol. 12. No. 3, <https://jurnal.unissula.ac.id/index.php/jhku/article/view/2294/1722>, page 134

³M. Sholeh, Sri Endah Wahyuningsih, 2017, Analysis of the Implementation of Criminal Sanctions Against Perpetrators of Child Sexual Violence Crimes at the Demak District Court, Khaira Ummah Law Journal Vol. 12. No. 2

⁴Moch. Isa Nazarudin, Umar Ma'ruf, 2020, Comparison Of The Implementation Of Pre-Court Process Before And After The Constitutional Court Decision Number: 21 / PUU-XII / 2014 In The Batang, in Jurnal Daulat Hukum Volume 3 (1), Published Master Of Law, Faculty of Law Unissula, p. 191, <http://jurnal.unissula.ac.id/index.php/RH/article/viewFile/8684/4070>

All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), violence against women encompasses various forms of physical, sexual, psychological, and economic harm that occur in both the private and public spheres.⁵

Domestic Violence (KDRT) is not just an act of violence against women, but a crime that tarnishes human dignity and honor.⁶ Women's and children's issues are still considered minor and domestic issues. It's not just the general public who considers women's and children's issues domestic. Many state officials still consider and view women's and children's issues as not a matter for the state or government.⁷

These forms of violence include domestic violence, sexual violence, economic exploitation, and gender-based harassment and discrimination. This violence not only violates women's human rights but also threatens their physical and mental health, security, and dignity. The Indonesian government's issuance of policies and regulations, such as the Elimination of Domestic Violence Act, aims to provide legal protection for women from domestic violence, which has often not been considered a criminal offense.⁸ While it was published The Sexual Violence Crimes Act aims to regulate the crime of sexual violence and its handling, which is often experienced by women. Imam Sukardi's research concluded that providing legal protection to victims can be realized if a mature, systematic, and mutually supportive legal construction system in Indonesia is created from upstream to downstream, working in the same direction, protecting the rights of women as victims and enforcing the law against perpetrators of violence.⁹

The results of research by Wicaksono suggest that in order to effectively respond to cases of domestic violence, it is essential that every family member has the ability and skills to overcome domestic violence, so that it does not result in fatal sacrifices, and it is also important that there is a change in society's view of gender roles that must be emphasized.¹⁰

In Demak Regency, a region with a diverse mix of traditional and economic backgrounds, violence against women continues to occur at alarming rates. Data from the Demak Regency Social Services, Women's Empowerment and Child

⁵Law Number 7 of 1984 concerning Ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

⁶ Fransiska Novita Eleonora. 2021. Textbook of Child and Women's Protection Law. First Edition. Madza Media, Malang. P. 252

⁷Palulungan, Lusia, M. Ghufon, H. Kordi, and Muhammad Taufan Ramli. 2020. Women, Patriarchal Society and Gender Equality. East Indonesia Knowledge Exchange Foundation. Makassar, p. 65.

⁸ Law Number 23 of 2004 concerning the Elimination of Domestic Violence

⁹ Sukardi, Imam. 2021. Legal Protection for Women Victims of Domestic Violence. Journal of Gender Equality and Justice Volume 16, No. 1.

¹⁰Wicaksono, Ario Ade. 2025. Legal Protection for Women as Victims of Domestic Violence through Restorative Justice. (Unpublished thesis). Sultan Agung Islamic University, Semarang, Faculty of Law. Pages 112-113

Protection Agency (Dinsos P2PA) shows that cases of violence against women, particularly domestic violence, remain quite high through 2024. Hundreds of cases of violence were reported between 2019 and mid-2024, with fluctuations in the number of cases but no significant downward trend. The coastal areas of Bonang District show a higher number of cases, with 90 women experiencing domestic violence between 2019 and early 2025, and more than half of them chose to divorce due to the violence they experienced.¹¹

The violence against women in Demak Regency described above can be attributed to several factors, including low levels of education, low legal awareness, social pressure, a deeply ingrained patriarchal culture, and unstable family economic conditions. These factors often trigger conflict within the household. Furthermore, social perceptions and fear are significant barriers for female victims to report and access optimal legal protection. This results in many cases of violence going unreported and victims not receiving adequate reparation and justice.

2. Research Methods

The research conducted is sociological juridical legal research, namely research that initially examines secondary data which is then continued with primary data research in the field or on the community.¹² In this study, the author aims to present an analysis of legal protection for female victims of violence in Demak Regency. The research specification used in this study is descriptive, namely a problem-solving procedure investigated by describing or depicting the visible or actual state of an object or subject. This study attempts to describe and depict the state of the object being investigated. The author will describe legal protection for female victims of violence in Demak Regency.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Types and Forms of Violence Experienced by Women in Demak Regency

Violence is a crime. Based on this understanding, cases of domestic violence against women are prosecuted under the Criminal Code's criminal articles. Furthermore, according to Sanford Kadish's definition in the Encyclopedia of Criminal Justice, violence is any type of unlawful behavior. This can be either actual or threatened, resulting in the destruction or damage of property.¹³

Violence against women is a new concept introduced at the Third World Conference on Women in Nairobi, which successfully fostered international consensus on the importance of preventing various forms of violence against

¹¹ Department of Social Services for Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Dinsos P2PA) of Demak Regency, 2025

¹² Ibid, p. 52

¹³ Mansour Fakih, 1999, Gender Analysis and Social Transformation, Pustaka Pelajar, Yogyakarta, p. 37

women in everyday life throughout society and providing assistance to women victims of violence. Because violence against women is a new concept, there is no single and clear definition or boundaries of violence against women from experts or observers of women's issues. Nevertheless, it is necessary to present several opinions on this matter.

In 1993 the UN General Assembly adopted a declaration against violence against women formulated in 1992 by the UN Commission on the Status of Women. Article 1 of the Declaration states that violence against women includes: any act of violence based on gender that results in or may result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life.

Article 2 of the Declaration states that the definition should be understood to include, but not be limited to, physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the family and in society, including abuse, sexual mistreatment of female children, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices detrimental to women, violence outside of marriage, exploitative violence, sexual harassment and intimidation in the workplace in educational institutions, trafficking in women, forced prostitution and violence perpetrated by those in authority. This definition explicitly points to the gender-based roots of violence.

According to Article 1 Number 1 of Law Number 23 of 2004 concerning the Elimination of Domestic Violence, domestic violence is any act against a person, especially a woman, which results in physical, sexual, psychological misery or suffering, and/or neglect of the household, including threats to commit acts, coercion, or unlawful deprivation of liberty within the household.

In addition to physical violence, the Law on the Elimination of Domestic Violence also mentions psychological violence as can be seen in Article 7 of the Law on the Elimination of Domestic Violence which states "Acts that result in fear, loss of self-confidence, loss of ability to act, feelings of helplessness, and/or severe psychological suffering in a person."

According to Mansur Faqih, the word "violence," which is used as an equivalent for the English word "violence," is defined as an attack or invasion (assault) against a person's physical or psychological integrity. This is what differentiates it from the Indonesian understanding of violence, where violence only concerns physical attacks. Mansur Faqih's view shows the meaning of violence on both physical and psychological objects.¹⁴

¹⁴Soedjono Dirdjosoworo, 2014, *Synopsis of Indonesian Criminology*, Gapura Media, Jakarta, pp. 12-13.

Violence against women takes various forms, ranging from physical, psychological, economic, to sexual violence. Violence against women (wives), as defined in the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, is any act based on gender differences that results in, or may cause, physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private/family life.

Martin R. Haskell and Lewis Yabslonswky as quoted by W. Kusumah divide violence into four categories which cover almost all patterns of violence, namely:¹⁵

- 1) Legal violence, this violence can be violence that is supported by law, for example violence that is legally justified such as soldiers carrying out duties in war.
- 2) Socially sanctioned violence. An important factor in analyzing violence is the level of social support for it. For example, acts of violence against adulterers by society will receive social support.
- 3) Rational violence. Some acts of violence that are illegal but lack social sanctions are considered rational crimes within the context of crime, such as murder within the framework of organized crime.
- 4) Irrational violence, which occurs without prior provocation, without any apparent motivation, and generally involves an unknown victim. It can be classified as "raw violence," a direct expression of a person's psychological distress at a particular point in their life.

Violence against women, including violence against wives, varies widely in form and intensity. Violence against women is not only physical but also non-physical. Article 2 of the 1993 UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women states that: violence against women must be understood to include, but not be limited to, the following:¹⁶

- 1) Acts of physical, sexual and psychological violence occur within the family, including battering, sexual abuse of women, children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional cruel practices against women, extra-marital violence and violence related to exploitation.
- 2) Physical, sexual and psychological violence that occurs in the wider community, including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and threats in the

¹⁵Mulyana W. Kusumah, 2012, *Criminological Analysis of Violent Crimes*, Ghalia Indonesia, Jakarta, pp. 25-26.

¹⁶Elli N Hasbianto, 1998, *Domestic Violence: A Hidden Crime*, in the book *Measuring Women's Wealth*, Mizan Khazanah Ilmu-ilmu Islam, Jakarta, p. 10

workplace, and educational institutions and so on, trafficking of women and forced prostitution.

3) Physical, sexual, and psychological violence perpetrated or condoned by the state occurs everywhere. Violence against women is often not a single dimension. A woman can, and often does, experience more than one form of violence. For example, a wife experiencing psychological abuse from her husband often experiences physical abuse. She must work hard to provide for her family because her husband refuses to provide for her.

Domestic violence (DV) is often the primary trigger for domestic disputes in Demak Regency. In October 2025, 183 divorce cases were recorded, with domestic disputes being the leading cause, accounting for 120 cases. This was revealed by the Head of the Prosecution Sub-Section (Kasubsi) of the Demak District Attorney's Office.

He explained that domestic violence does not only include physical violence such as hitting or kicking, but also psychological, sexual violence and neglect.

"Psychological violence can take the form of words or actions that cause a partner to feel mentally hurt, such as insults, threats, or treatment that makes the victim lose their sense of security.

Adi revealed that domestic violence itself has been regulated in Law Number 23 of 2023 which states that every act against a person, especially women, that results in physical, sexual, psychological misery or suffering, and/or neglect of the household, including threats to commit acts, coercion, or unlawful deprivation of liberty within the household.

"So, it's limited to the household. So, who falls into this category? That means the husband, wife, children, and anyone else living or residing in the household. Maids also fall within this category.

Adi added that during the legal process, law enforcement officials also implement Restorative Justice (RJ), or mediation between the disputing parties. "However, the success rate of these peace efforts remains low, only around 20-30 percent. Of those that have been processed, most end in separation or divorce.

Psychological violence Violence against women includes insults, threats, social exclusion, and excessive control over the victim's activities. Article 7 of Law Number 23 of 2004 concerning the Elimination of Domestic Violence states that psychological violence as referred to in Article 5 letter b is an act that results in fear, loss of self-confidence, loss of ability to act, feelings of helplessness, and/or severe psychological suffering in a person. The psychological impact is quite severe, including trauma, depression, and feelings of inferiority. This shows that violence is not always physically visible, but has long-term effects on the victim's

mental health. As Article 8 of Law Number 23 of 2004 concerning the Elimination of Domestic Violence states that sexual violence as referred to in Article 5 letter c includes: a. forced sexual intercourse committed against someone who lives within the household; b. forced sexual intercourse against one person within the household with another person for commercial and/or specific purposes. The results of this study indicate that sexual violence that occurred in Demak Regency took the form of sexual violence including forced sexual intercourse within the household, harassment in public spaces, and indecent acts. Many cases go unreported due to shame, fear of stigma, and lack of legal access. This finding aligns with feminist theory, which emphasizes men's control over women's bodies as a form of structural violence.

In Demak Regency, economic violence such as economic neglect, prohibition from working, or takeover of a woman's income by her partner. In Article 9 (Paragraph 1) on Law Number 23 of 2004 concerning the Elimination of Domestic Violence states that Every person is prohibited from neglecting a person within the scope of his household, even though according to the law that applies to him or because of an agreement or contract he is obliged to provide life, care, or maintenance to that person. Article 9 (Paragraph 2) also states that neglect as referred to in Paragraph (1) also applies to every person who causes economic dependency by limiting and/or prohibiting decent work inside or outside the home so that the victim is under the control of that person. Economic violence results in the victim's dependence on the perpetrator and limits the independence of women. This shows the relationship between gender inequality and economic vulnerability.

The research also shows that concrete forms of violence experienced by women in Demak Regency occur within the household, including beatings, shouting, insults, and control of activities. In the public sphere, these include verbal and physical sexual harassment, bullying, and gender discrimination in the workplace or school. Meanwhile, in the economic sphere, these include confiscation of income, prohibition from working, and financial dependence on husbands or other family members. These forms of violence often occur in combination, for example, physical violence accompanied by psychological threats, which exacerbates the impact on victims.

The results of interviews in this study revealed that the factors causing violence against women in Demak Regency are a patriarchal culture that places men as the dominant party in the household and society; economic pressure where financial conflicts become a trigger for domestic violence; a lack of legal understanding so that many victims do not know their rights and reporting procedures; and social stigma that makes victims reluctant to report for fear of being labeled negatively by society. These causal factors are interrelated, indicating that violence against women is multidimensional, not just an individual problem.

The impacts of violence against women in Demak Regency include psychological impacts such as trauma, depression, anxiety, and low self-confidence; social impacts such as social isolation, family conflict, and stigma in society; and economic impacts such as job loss, financial dependence, and difficulty meeting family needs.

This study demonstrates that violence is not merely a personal issue, but rather a structural issue requiring legal, social, and educational interventions to promote gender equality. Feminist theory emphasizes that violence against women is linked to gender inequality and male dominance, as evident in the research data. Law No. 23 of 2004 concerning the Elimination of Domestic Violence and Law No. 12 of 2022 concerning Criminal Acts of Sexual Violence provide a legal basis for protection, but implementation remains limited in Demak Regency. Various stakeholders, including the government, legal institutions, and social service institutions, need to undertake cross-sectoral interventions to improve the effectiveness of women's protection.

3.2. Implementation of Legal Protection for Women Victims of Violence in Demak Regency

Sexual violence, a crime that often places women as the primary victims, is a particularly dangerous form of crime. Sexual violence is not only a social problem in Indonesia but also a human rights violation with physical and psychological impacts.

Violence against women is a classic problem and continues to occur, especially domestic violence. Domestic violence (hereinafter referred to as KDRT) can be defined as any act against a person, especially women, that results in physical, sexual, psychological misery or suffering, and/or domestic neglect. Furthermore, acts of violence can also include threats to commit acts, coercion, or unlawful deprivation of liberty within the household. Violence against women has become a significant issue and has caused concern in every country in the world, including developed countries that are said to highly value human rights (hereinafter abbreviated as HAM). Facts show that criminal acts of violence against women as partners have had a significant negative impact on women as victims.¹⁷

In Indonesia, the rate of domestic violence against women is increasing every year. It appears that laws prohibiting domestic violence are less robust than the prevailing legal culture. Patriarchal culture is one factor contributing to domestic violence.

At first glance, the Domestic Violence Law is already comprehensive in preventing domestic violence. The sanctions imposed on perpetrators are already very

¹⁷ Aroma Elmina Martha, 2012, *Women and Domestic Violence in Indonesia and Malaysia*, FH UII Press, Yogyakarta, p.2.

severe, compared to those imposed under the Criminal Code. However, in practice, the law enforcement process has not yet run as expected. The most important inhibiting factor is the community's lack of understanding of the dangers and impacts of domestic violence, isolated by patriarchal cultural values and misconceptions of religious texts. Similarly, from the perspective of victims/potential victims, systemic factors contribute to the problem. These include poverty/economic factors, low education levels, women's own perceptions of their status, environmental factors, and many others.

Legal protection for female victims of domestic violence and their families requires a strong commitment with a high respect for the values of justice, non-discrimination, and human rights as guaranteed by the constitution. The existence of a legal system that is not friendly to domestic violence cases is not only due to the content of the law, but more so the mindset of law enforcement officers, government officials, and the wider community who are still surrounded by patriarchal views, so that discriminatory actions often color daily life as evidence of domestic violence occurring in society. Steps towards a gender-responsive legal system still require a hard struggle by solving the root of the problem.¹⁸

Women are often the most vulnerable group to violence, whether physical, psychological, sexual, or economic. Violence against women not only harms individual victims but also hinders social development and creates long-term gender inequality. Women are the social group most vulnerable to various forms of violence, particularly sexual violence. Data from the National Commission on Violence Against Women shows that the trend of violence against women continues to increase annually, both in the domestic and public spheres. Violence against women not only impacts the physical and mental well-being of victims but also has far-reaching consequences for social stability and national development. Therefore, the national legal system is obliged to provide comprehensive protection for female victims of violence, both from a preventive and repressive perspective.

Domestic violence shows that this form of violence is closely related to gender issues, discrimination against women and the strong culture adopted by society that household problems are private matters and are only an excess of the dynamics of household life.

Initially, violence against women was viewed as a crime with a distinct character, specifically targeting female victims and having a distinct impact, both on the victim and on society in general. Furthermore, there was no special treatment for women as victims who experienced the impact of the violence. Now, the law is more responsive and accommodating to the development of understanding of the

¹⁸Mudjiati, Criminal Law, djpp.depukumham.go.id,

complexity of the forms and impacts of crimes directed at women as victims, thus becoming known as violence against women.¹⁹

Violence against women is a crime against humanity because it not only violates human rights but also has a profound impact on the survival of women themselves and the future of the nation's next generation, as women are one of the nation's assets. Acts of violence violate the law, religious and social norms. Women and girls' sexuality is vulnerable to discriminatory treatment and violence. When talking about domestic violence, women even experience violence within their own homes. It is almost unbelievable that the perpetrators of violence are the very people they love and trust to protect them: fathers, husbands, uncles, relatives, and people within their own households.

In cases of violence by perpetrators, it turns out that the notion of love and trust is often a myth. Reports from around the world note that domestic violence occurs in all levels of society. Perpetrators and victims come from all ethnicities, races, religions, social classes, and educational levels.

Sociocultural values that marginalize and subordinate women also exacerbate this situation. Women experience this subordinated relationship throughout the world, not only in developing societies like Indonesia but also in developed countries like the United States and elsewhere.²⁰ The poverty experienced by women is not caused by the fact that women are lazier than men, but rather the poverty of women is more caused by structural factors that hegemonize and stunt women's roles, so that women's position becomes weak and poor.²¹ In addition, changes in social customs and morals also occurred. Industrialization's most prominent impacts were on employment status and skills, family life and the status of women, and consumer traditions and habits.

The effective implementation of legal protection for female victims of violence cannot be achieved without the support of various institutions that play strategic roles in the legal system, social services, and victim recovery. From a victimology perspective, victim protection focuses not only on the legal process but also encompasses comprehensive support, recovery, and guarantees of victims' rights.

In Indonesia, there is actually an institution that guarantees protection for women. This institution is the National Commission for the Protection of Women. The National Commission on Violence Against Women is an independent state institution for upholding the human rights of Indonesian women. The National Commission on Violence Against Women was established through Presidential

¹⁹ M. Munandar Sulaeman and Siti Homzah, 2010, *Violence Against Women (A Review of Various Disciplines and Cases of Violence)*, Refika Aditama, Bandung, p. 78

²⁰ Abdul Rahmad, 2009, *Gender in Customary Law, Normative*, Vol.1, No.10, p.73.

²¹ Abdullah Muzakkar, 2007, *Women and Poverty; The Reality of Gender Injustice*, Puanri, Vol.2, No.2, p. 35.

Decree Number 181 of 1998, on October 9, 1998, which was strengthened by Presidential Regulation Number 65 of 2005 Junto Presidential Regulation Number 8 of 2024 concerning Amendments to Presidential Regulation Number 65 of 2005 concerning the National Commission on Violence Against Women.

Interviews revealed that most victims of violence in Demak Regency have limited understanding of their legal rights. Many victims are unaware of national regulations such as Law No. 23 of 2004 concerning the Elimination of Domestic Violence, Law No. 12 of 2022 concerning Criminal Acts of Sexual Violence, or local policies/regional regulations concerning the protection of women.

a. Forms of legal protection applied

Based on data from law enforcement officers and service agencies, the implementation of legal protection is carried out in several forms:

- a) Physical and psychological protection; Placement of victims in temporary safe houses (shelters) and psychological assistance by the New Hope PPT Unit of the Demak Regency Social Service, P2PA.
- b) Formal legal protection; Receipt of reports to the police through the Integrated Police Service Center (SPKT) and assistance with the legal process, prosecution of the perpetrator by the prosecutor and the trial process in court, and legal assistance from LBH or advocates who collaborate with the local government.
- c) Social protection; Temporary economic assistance for victims who are the backbone of the family and women's rehabilitation and empowerment programs by the Department of Social Affairs, Social Empowerment and Child Protection.

The results of this study indicate that most victims have limited understanding of their legal rights. Many victims are unaware of Law Number 23 of 2004 concerning Domestic Violence, Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning Criminal Acts of Sexual Violence, or local policies related to women's protection. This aligns with feminist legal theory, which emphasizes the importance of access to information and legal education as part of women's protection. This lack of legal awareness results in low reporting of violence, resulting in suboptimal implementation of legal protection.

Based on interviews with law enforcement officers and service institutions, legal protection in Demak Regency is implemented in several forms, namely physical and psychological protection by placing victims in temporary safe houses (shelters) and providing psychological assistance by PPT Harapan Baru or other service institutions. Formal legal protection forms include receiving reports from the police and legal process assistance by officers and prosecuting perpetrators through the judicial system, as well as legal assistance from LBH or advocates. Social and economic protection forms include providing temporary assistance in

the form of food, clothing, or emergency funds and rehabilitation and economic empowerment programs for victims from the Social Services. Although these forms of legal protection for women have existed, their effectiveness is still limited due to factors such as coordination, resources, and victim awareness.

b. Coordination mechanism and legal protection services for women victims of violence

Service institutions in Demak Regency (the Harapan Baru PPT Unit of the Social Services Department, the Police, the Prosecutor's Office, the Health/Hospital, the Legal Aid Institute, and others) collaborate through a case referral mechanism. However, interviews revealed that this coordination often fails due to: a lack of communication between agencies, limited human resources and budget for case handling, and low victim awareness, leading to reluctance to report.

The implementation of legal protection involves coordination between agencies, including the Demak Police Resort, the Demak District Attorney's Office, the Demak District Court, the Harapan Baru Demak Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Agency (PPA Harapan Baru Demak), the Demak Regency Social Service, and the Legal Aid Institute (LBH). Research findings indicate that an inter-agency referral mechanism exists, but it does not always operate optimally. Limited human resources, budget, and facilities make it difficult for some victims to access services. Furthermore, low victim awareness leads to many cases going unreported or delayed.

Law enforcement in the broad sense includes activities to implement and apply the law and take legal action against any violations or deviations from the law committed by legal subjects, either through judicial procedures or through non-judicial procedures such as arbitration and other dispute resolution mechanisms (alternative disputes or conflicts resolution).

The role of law enforcement officials, including police, prosecutors, and judges, is key in providing a sense of security and legal certainty for victims. However, in reality, many officials still lack a gender perspective when handling domestic violence cases, resulting in the legal process being biased against victims.²² It is not uncommon for domestic violence cases to be resolved peacefully without considering the trauma and interests of the victim, and there is even a tendency to direct peace towards "maintaining household harmony".

Women's protection is a crucial issue that continues to receive government attention. Through the Social Service for Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (P2PA), various efforts have been made to reduce violence against women. One such program is the Women's Service and Empowerment Center

²²Nurul Qomariyah, 2020, "Gender Inequality in Handling Domestic Violence Cases: A Sociological and Legal Review," *Journal of Law and Development*, Vol. 50, No. 3, p. 379.

(Puspel PP), which not only assists victims of violence but also focuses on prevention and women's empowerment.

Swift and targeted action is necessary due to the gap between community needs, particularly for women's protection, and the conditions on the ground. Many victims of violence still do not receive what they need. This is evidenced by the limited availability of protection facilities, such as safe houses, and the low response from their surrounding communities.²³

In principle, legal protection does not discriminate between men and women. Indonesia, as a state governed by the rule of law based on Pancasila, must provide legal protection to its citizens. This legal protection will foster the recognition and protection of human rights, both as individuals and as social beings, within a unitary state that upholds the spirit of family for the sake of achieving shared prosperity.

Repressive legal protection measures implemented by the courts include sentencing the perpetrator. According to Andi Hamzah and Sumengelipu, one of the goals of sentencing is to protect the public, including legal protection for victims.²⁴

Victims who have suffered physical and psychological harm demand that law enforcement impose a punishment commensurate with the perpetrator's actions. Therefore, sanctions are necessary as a form of legal protection for victims. They argue that imposing legal sanctions on perpetrators indirectly provides legal attention (protection) to the crime. Legal protection for women who are victims of this crime is not only limited to the punishment of the perpetrator but also covers the consequences that befall them.

Obstacles to the implementation of legal protection:

- a. Social and cultural barriers; Social stigma against victims discourages many women from reporting domestic violence. Patriarchal norms remain strong, so women are perceived as having to endure domestic violence.
- b. Regulatory and procedural barriers; Not all law enforcement officers have special training related to cases of violence against women and the long and complicated legal procedures make it difficult for victims.
- c. Facility and resource constraints; Safe houses are limited and have not yet reached all areas of Demak Regency and legal aid is not evenly distributed, especially in rural areas.

²³Farhan, I., Hidayat, A., & Nur, MI (nd). Implementation of Child Protection Policy in Bandung City

²⁴ Andi Hamzah and Simangelipu, 1985, Death Penalty Law in Indonesia in the Past, Present and Future, Ghalia Indonesia: Jakarta, pp. 15-16

The impact of implementing legal protection for victims includes feeling physically safe and receiving psychological support from some victims who receive services. Victims who receive legal assistance are more confident in navigating the legal process. For perpetrators: legal proceedings are underway in some cases, but some perpetrators are not prosecuted due to evidence and reporting constraints. For the public: public awareness of legal protection is increasing, although it remains limited to certain groups.

Based on the results of interviews with victims, law enforcement officers and service institutions, there are several main obstacles, namely social and cultural obstacles in the form of stigma against the victim which bMany victims are reluctant to report for fear of being stigmatized by society or their families.strong patriarchal organization which sThe social structure that places men as the dominant party in the household makes it difficult for women to claim their rights. And also klack of legal awareness in society which Many victims are unaware of their legal rights, reporting procedures, or available services.

Several strategies and solutions used to overcome obstacles in the implementation of legal protection against violence against women include social and educational strategies carried out by increasing public legal awareness and socializing the Law on the Elimination of Domestic Violence, the Law on Sexual Violence Crimes, and the Demak Regency Regional Regulation regarding women's protection through seminars, social media, and community activities. Efforts to strengthen women's community advocacy are carried out by establishing victim support groups and local advocacy networks to help victims report. And efforts to educate on gender equality are carried out by integrating gender equality education in schools, Islamic boarding schools, and the community to reduce patriarchal norms. Social and educational strategies aim to help raise awareness of victims and the community, so that more cases are reported and social support is increased.

The regulatory and procedural strategies are implemented by increasing the capacity of law enforcement officers through regular training for police, prosecutors, and judges regarding the handling of cases of violence against women and simplifying reporting procedures, which creates a faster, safer, and victim-friendly complaint mechanism. Cross-agency coordination is also established through the establishment of regular inter-agency forums (Demak Police, Demak District Attorney, Harapan Baru Integrated Service Unit, Demak Regency P2PA Social Service, LBH) to discuss cases and strengthen referrals. Social and educational strategies aim to help raise awareness among victims and the public, resulting in more reported cases and increased social support.

In addition to the efforts outlined above, the facility and resource strategy includes adding safe houses (shelters) in strategic areas, particularly those closer to rural areas, to facilitate easier access for victims. Improving legal aid services through

the provision of free or subsidized advocates for victims in underserved areas. Budget strengthening and empowerment programs are also being implemented, including structured and sustainable social assistance, skills training, and psychological rehabilitation programs. The facility and resource strategy aims to ensure more equitable legal protection, particularly for victims from remote areas or families with limited financial resources.

4. Conclusion

The types of violence experienced by women in Demak Regency are diverse. includes physical, psychological, sexual, and economic violence, with psychological and economic violence being the most common types experienced. These contributing factors include patriarchal culture, gender inequality, poor legal understanding, and social stigma against victims. The forms of violence experienced by women in Demak Regency include domestic violence, sexual violence, psychological violence, and economic violence. Domestic violence remains dominant, with physical and psychological violence intertwined. The main factors causing this violence are patriarchal culture, gender inequality, poor legal understanding, and social stigma against victims.

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