



# TRANSFORMING THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN FROM SEXUAL VIOLENCE THROUGH LEGAL REFORM, PATRIARCHAL CULTURAL DECONSTRUCTION, AND SOCIAL CHANGE

Habib Nur Rochman, Rommy Hardyansah, Elly Christanti Gautama

Universitas Sunan Giri Surabaya

correspondence: dr.rommyhardyansah@gmail.com

## Abstract

This study discusses the dynamics of protecting women victims of sexual violence through an analysis of the national legal system, power imbalances, patriarchal culture, social stigma, and challenges in the reporting system within society. The shift in legal paradigms brought about by the enactment of Law Number 12 of 2022 provides a more inclusive foundation for protection; however, its implementation remains limited by the mindset of law enforcement officials, bureaucratic procedures, and cultural and social resistance. The phenomenon of victim-blaming and discrimination frequently leaves victims feeling isolated and reluctant to report incidents. Power dynamics and patriarchal value systems have proven to widen the gap between the legal protection objectives and practices on the ground. This study emphasizes the need for inter-agency integration, victim empowerment, and cultural transformation as a manifestation of collective commitment. The analysis results recommend updating the reporting system, enhancing the capacity of law enforcement agencies, and conducting intensive public literacy campaigns to ensure that women victims of sexual violence can access their rights to protection and justice without barriers posed by stigma and discrimination.

Keywords: sexual violence, female victims, patriarchal culture, power relations, legal system, social stigma, reporting cases

## Introduction

Incidents of sexual violence against women are widely documented in various global and national reports, highlighting a societal crisis of values and continued tolerance of patriarchal culture. Within the spectrum of social relationships, women are often placed in vulnerable positions, both physically and psychologically. Power dynamics, coupled with misguided social associations, frequently perpetuate perpetrators as dominant figures who suppress the rights of female victims through gender-based violence (Aryana, 2022; Manarat et al., 2021). Women become targets of sexual acts that impose will and degrade dignity, with long-term psychological effects that impact their life, mental health status, and social position (Muhid et al., 2019).

Deep-rooted gender inequality in the structure of society is evident in the distribution of sexual violence in various environments, from households and educational institutions to the public sphere. Social dynamics that place women in a subordinate position trigger incidents of sexual assault, despite advances in legal protection. Even within the family, women's positions as wives, daughters, or family members often have their authority overlooked, leaving them vulnerable to sexual violence in what should be a safe private space (Safira & El-Yunusi, 2023; Siregar et al., 2020). This aligns with findings indicating that women with disabilities are also frequently targeted by the same actions (Azhar et al., 2023).

Upon further investigation, many cases of sexual violence involving adolescent girls, especially in urban areas, are driven by weak social control and a lack of education about healthy sexuality. Empirical evidence shows that the trend of sexual violence is increasing among young women, who frequently lack access to information and are highly dependent on their surroundings for protection (Hikmalia et al., 2022; Mannika, 2018). This reality is exacerbated by the lack of preventive measures from formal institutions and the absence of strict regulations capable of curbing the rate of violence at the community level.

Law enforcement in cases of sexual violence against women has become a major concern for many countries, including Indonesia, which continues to improve its legal framework to provide justice for victims. It must be acknowledged that the judicial system and protection of women victims of sexual violence in developing countries still face major challenges in implementation in the field. Cultural structures that blame

victims, gender bias embedded in law enforcement agencies, and the lack of public education in recognizing women's rights are the main obstacles (Purwanti & Hardianti, 2018; Wulandari & Krisnani, 2021). As long as these elements remain unaddressed, legal protection efforts will remain mere theory without real support for victims.

The main issues related to sexual violence against women are inseparable from structural and cultural biases. One of the most critical issues is the culture of victim-blaming, which not only adds to psychological suffering but also undermines survivors' confidence in obtaining justice (Oktaviani & Azeharie, 2020; Wulandari & Krisnani, 2021). The dominant narrative in society frequently places women as the cause of the violence they experience, without considering the social realities that restrict their mobility and freedom.

The reporting and handling systems for sexual violence against women are often unresponsive and even neglectful of the basic needs of victims. A study by Wartoyo and Ginting (2023) highlights that even higher education environments cannot fully guarantee the safety of women from perpetrators of sexual violence. Many institutions still cover up cases, leaving victims isolated, and fail to provide adequate support services. This situation is further exacerbated by the lack of legal education at both the individual and institutional levels, leading victims to hesitate in reporting incidents and causing their trauma to worsen (Sari et al., 2023).

The next issue involves disparities in legal protection and law enforcement in their implementation within society. Although preventive measures have been initiated by the government and non-governmental organizations, the realization of women's protection remains far from expectations due to limited resources, social stigma, and the pervasive influence of patriarchal culture across various sectors (Lalungkan, 2015; Manarat et al., 2021). Meanwhile, cases of sexual violence against women with disabilities remain high because the legal system has not been able to provide special protection that meets the needs of vulnerable groups (Azhar et al., 2023).

There is a wealth of recent data and studies documenting the growth of sexual violence against women as a systemic problem. However, efforts to strengthen the law, public education, and cultural change require a long process and consistency across sectors (Putri et al., 2024). The government, through Law No. 12 of 2022, Chapter 1, Article 1, paragraph (1), defines sexual

violence as any act that meets the elements of a criminal offense as stipulated in this Law and other acts of sexual violence as stipulated in the Law, provided that they are determined in the Law No. 12 of 2022. The consistent implementation and enforcement of the law will be the foundation for reducing the incidence of sexual violence against women in the future.

The high prevalence of sexual violence against women is a key indicator of the need for attention and intervention from all stakeholders. The dynamic process involving legal, social, cultural, and psychological factors cannot be ignored or taken lightly. In the realm of criminal law, aspects of protection, prevention, and empowerment of victims must be fought for to ensure substantive justice for all women. Every layer of society is responsible for overseeing the implementation of policies that favor victims and minimize the recurrence of sexual crimes against women.

The problems arising from sexual violence against women are becoming increasingly complex with the development of technology and digital media, which have expanded the perpetrators' modus operandi. Social norms that have not yet built collective awareness to date have also exacerbated the situation. Stigma and discrimination against victims cause many women to experience repeated trauma, even after perpetrators are found guilty in court (Muhid et al., 2019; Sumera, 2013). Education and advocacy based on community engagement are ways to strengthen women's position as independent and empowered subjects of the law.

Legal strengthening measures must be carefully monitored because they have a broad impact on social order and justice. Women's right to feel safe and secure is a human right guaranteed by the constitution and universal declarations. By developing regulations based on a victim-centered perspective, the legal process will be more adaptive to women's needs and able to prevent the recurrence of sexual violence.

Attention to women as victims of sexual violence is crucial to prevent long-term social damage. Psychological trauma that is not properly addressed can have widespread social, economic, and health impacts that extend to future generations. Policies formulated without involving victims and experts risk producing superficial solutions that lack substance. Therefore, further understanding and research must be directed toward strengthening databases, legal support systems, and public education regarding sexual violence against women.

This study aims to identify the main characteristics of sexual violence against women, examine the effectiveness of national legal instruments, and explore the influence of stigma and reporting systems in the process of protecting victims based on juridical and criminological studies. This study is expected to produce concrete recommendations for strengthening legal protection policies that are responsive to the dynamics of social reality, as well as expanding cross-sector collaboration in supporting the recovery of women victims of sexual violence.

## Method

This study uses a qualitative literature review approach that focuses on collecting, reviewing, and synthesizing scientific sources in the form of books and academic journals related to sexual violence against women, both in the field of criminal law and criminology. Qualitative literature research is highly effective for mapping patterns, dynamics, and gaps in the victim protection system, as it can accommodate both theoretical and empirical perspectives. The use of literature review is not only aimed at reconstructing knowledge but also at analyzing the legal basis, field practices, and social narratives that have developed in society regarding this issue (Creswell, 2014). The data collection process focused on literature whose originality and credibility had been verified, ensuring that all arguments and syntheses produced were based on a strong scientific foundation (Strauss & Corbin, 2007).

Data analysis was conducted using coding and thematic analysis techniques, enabling the study to reveal the common thread of the narrative and conceptual findings based on selected theoretical references. The analysis procedure was carried out systematically, utilizing the principle of cross-confirmation to minimize interpretation bias and maintain the objectivity of the results. Data validation was achieved through triangulation between sources and comparison with findings from recent research. This framework enables the conclusions drawn to be academically accountable and contributes to strengthening scientific discourse and the formulation of public policy related to the handling of sexual violence against women (Bungin, 2020; Neuman, 2014).

## Result and Discussion

### Power Relations and Social Determinants of Sexual Violence Against Women

Sexual violence is an act that can cause physical, sexual, and/or psychological harm or suffering, including threats, certain acts, coercion, and various deprivations of liberty, which are considered violations of human rights (Rohmah & Nurjamillah, 2021). An analysis of power relations is key to understanding the roots of sexual violence against women. Unequal power relations frequently place women in subordinate positions, resulting in restrictions on their autonomy and neglect of their rights. This is frequently caused by societal values that view women as powerless, fragile, and vulnerable compared to men (Adiputra et al., 2022). Aryana (2022) explains that the relationship between perpetrators and victims is greatly influenced by gender constructs in patriarchal societies. In this system, male dominance creates an unbalanced social space, resulting in dependency and opening up opportunities for sexual exploitation. Informal power models in households, educational institutions, and work environments have been shown to create situations that are vulnerable for women to become victims of unlawful sexual acts.

The cycle of violence against victims begins with a weak economic structure within the family (Farah et al., 2023). Criminological implications suggest that social determinants related to sexual violence are strongly influenced by factors such as social structure, culture, education, and the prevailing legal system. According to Safira and El-Yunusi (2023), the interaction between family, community, and legal institutions serves as the primary arena for social learning that shapes perceptions and problematic sexual behavior. Women who frequently live in environments with conservative values frequently lack access to sexuality education, making them vulnerable to oppression and violence stemming from unequal power dynamics.

Recent studies confirm that the formation of sexual violence patterns against women is influenced by various social variables such as social norms, knowledge, and cultural representations. Putri, Pembayun, and Qolbiah (2024) highlight the tendency of society to normalize violence in interpersonal and family relationships. Ahmad, Riaz, Barata, and Stewart (2004) mention that women living in patriarchal environments frequently accept existing norms and values without question, with some

even considering violence from their partners to be normal, so they do not always see it as a form of violence (Tomisin, 2020). The paradigm shift in the media has contributed to shaping public perception through the process of framing, as identified by Hikmalia, Cangara, and Wahid (2022). The mass media plays a major role in shaping the perception that victims are often blamed for the incidents that befall them, which ultimately reinforces the domino effect of victim-blaming and hinders the psychological recovery process.

Mannika (2018) in her study of adolescent girls in urban areas found that the potential for sexual violence correlates with weak socialization regarding healthy sexuality. Lack of access to information makes it difficult for adolescent girls to distinguish behaviors that fall under the category of sexual violence. The study highlights the urgency of human rights-based sexuality education as a strategic step to break the cycle of violence rooted in the power imbalance between men and women.

On the other hand, legal systems and instruments sometimes exacerbate unequal social determinants. A study by Siregar, Rakhmawaty, and Siregar (2020) states that legal instruments in society frequently still adopt values that are discriminatory against women. The lack of clarity regarding the legal boundaries of sexual violence, as well as the slow process of law enforcement, increases the vulnerability of women. In private spaces such as the family, the mechanisms for resolution are frequently determined by the interests of the perpetrators and rule makers, rather than the protection of victims.

It has been mentioned that the main motive behind sexual harassment is to maintain social status and male dominance, so that the gender hierarchy is maintained, especially in countries with strong power structures (Anwar et al., 2022). Wulandari and Krisnani (2021) identified a tendency among the public to blame female victims of sexual violence, which is closely related to misattribution in assessing the causes of violence. This weakens the bargaining position of victims in the legal and social spheres. Strong social narratives tend to negate the experiences of victims, implying that women contribute to the violence they suffer, thereby exacerbating the power dynamics between perpetrators and victims through collective stigmatization.

Family, community, and law enforcement relationships create a social environment that is frequently unfriendly to women survivors of sexual violence. Manarat, Kaawoan, and Rachman (2021) highlight the importance of cross-sector collaboration to strengthen protection functions, especially in handling cases involving women as victims. Social environments with patriarchal structures tend to hinder victims' recovery due to the lack of psychosocial support and women-friendly legal services. Patriarchal culture has been ingrained in Indonesian society, which ultimately only weakens the status of women and further strengthens the status of men (Andini & Faridah, 2022). This situation necessitates fundamental changes in the power structure within society.

Lalungan (2015) adds that efforts to protect women victims of sexual violence must be based on legal reform that prioritizes restorative justice and victim-centered principles. In practice, the legal system's bias is greatly influenced by social constructs and the orientation of law enforcement officials in interpreting cases of sexual violence. Victims frequently face revictimization during the reporting and investigation process, a situation that frequently exacerbates trauma and diminishes hope for justice.

The characteristics of power relations not only limit women's access to justice, but also legitimize perpetrators to dominate private and public spaces. The traditional paradigm that views women as subordinate in family and community structures reinforces tolerance of sexual violence. At the macro level, this determination is reinforced by a social system that neglects gender equality education, narrowing women's space to demand the right to self-protection and recognition of dignity (Purwanti & Hardianti, 2018).

Various cases that have been exposed in the public sphere show that the construction of power relations and social determination are closely related to the emergence of tendencies to justify or normalize sexual violence against women. Individual interests, social status, and the influence of patriarchal culture are catalysts in creating an environment that is not conducive to efforts to uphold women's human rights and justice.

In everyday life, women often face verbal and physical intimidation, both in the workplace and at home. Social pressure in the form of stereotypes portraying women as sexual objects often makes victims hesitant to report incidents that have befallen them. Similar situations are

found in many communities, where sexual violence not only affects the physical and mental well-being of victims but also undermines women's basic civil rights. The role of the family as a protector should be strengthened through collaboration with the community and the state to create a safe environment for all members of society. A number of studies have shown that the response of society and the state to sexual violence is still reactive in nature and does not address the root of the problem conceptually. Weaknesses in the reporting system, prolonged investigation processes, and the absence of victim-centered regulations make it difficult to systematically reduce the incidence of sexual violence against women. A deep understanding of the characteristics of power dynamics, social determinants, and the causes of sexual violence is essential to ensure that legal frameworks can comprehensively address the aspirations of victims and society.

Thus, simultaneous social, educational and legal transformation is needed to encourage the creation of collective awareness about the importance of preventing and protecting women victims of sexual violence. All of these efforts aim to emphasize the position of women as legal subjects who are sovereign over their bodies and human rights. The enforcement of the principle of justice in Law No. 12 of 2022, especially the articles governing the protection of victims and the provision of strict sanctions against perpetrators, is a fundamental foundation that must continue to be strengthened, in order to realize a balanced social life free from sexual violence.

### **Implementation of National Legal Instruments in Handling Sexual Violence against Women**

Sexual violence is a serious criminal offense with severe penalties, and the provision of leniency for perpetrators, either through the accumulation of primary offenses or additional charges because it is contrary to the objectives of law enforcement to eradicate sexual violence (Elisna & Rahim, 2024). The protection of women victims of sexual violence in Indonesia has gained a stronger legal basis, especially through the issuance of Law Number 12 of 2022 on the Crime of Sexual Violence. This legislative product establishes an explicit definition of the crime of sexual violence and covers various acts, as formulated in Article 1 paragraph (1).

This provision has strategic significance as an effort by the state to provide legal protection for women, as well as to provide a criminal basis for perpetrators who violate the dignity of victims. However, the reality on the ground shows that the implementation of this regulation still leaves a number of problems, both in substance and in its implementation.

The existence of national legal instruments should be the main tool in efforts to prevent and prosecute sexual violence, as further regulated in Articles 5 and 6 of Law Number 12 of 2022. Article 5 regulates criminal sanctions for non-physical sexual harassment behavior with a maximum imprisonment of nine months and a fine of up to ten million rupiah, while Article 6 stipulates criminal sanctions for physical sexual acts and abuse of authority up to twelve years imprisonment and a fine of three hundred million rupiah. However, implementation at the law enforcement level has not been fully effective, with many cases not being followed up optimally due to various procedural and cultural reasons.

Aryana (2022) highlighted the importance of synchronization between formal rules and the involvement of all stakeholders, from law enforcement officials, women's protection agencies, to civil society. The gap between legal substance and implementation occurs because the perspective of the authorities is often still biased towards victims. Many victims are reluctant to report due to fears of revictimization, such as social stigma or entrapment questions. Wartoyo and Ginting (2023) found that there is an inadequate bureaucratic pattern in providing protection, especially in higher education, where victims of sexual violence experience social isolation and do not get proper psychosocial support.

Regulations will not be effective without a victim-friendly reporting system, as one of the main inhibiting factors is the lack of effective communication between victims and protection agencies. Hikmalia, Cangara, and Wahid (2022) show how online media sometimes fail to channel victims' aspirations due to social pressure and news coverage that reinforces stigma. It is important to have ethical guidelines and special protection from the state so that women victims feel safe and have easier access to justice.

Lalungkan (2015) emphasized the need to update diversion mechanisms and victim handling procedures, so that the entire process runs quickly and does not trigger new trauma. Best practices from other countries demonstrate the effectiveness of a one-stop shop in providing

space for victims to raise cases without fear. Implementation in Indonesia is often hampered by limited resources, less thorough training for officials, and the lack of efforts to socialize the law to the root of the community.

Azhar et al. (2023) also note that vulnerable groups such as women with disabilities still face multiple barriers in accessing legal protection. Legal protection for women with disabilities who are victims of sexual violence is of particular concern compared to the protection of victims of sexual violence in general, because in addition to the stigma of victim blaming by the general public and the condition of disability because it has a difference between calendar age and mental age, so there needs to be special treatment in the form of legal protection both from a sociological perspective and related regulations (Irawan, 2023). Law No. 31/2014 already contains the rights of witnesses and victims, such as obtaining personal security, temporary housing, and legal assistance, but its implementation has not been maximized in every region. Many cases show that victims tend to be left to face the legal process alone, without adequate assistance or facilities to support recovery.

Purwanti and Hardiyanti (2018) in their study revealed that one of the main challenges is changing the patriarchal culture that has long permeated law enforcement officials. Many victims' efforts to seek justice are hindered by biased perceptions and the slow handling of complaints. The direct consequence of this aspect is the low reporting rate and the high rate of impunity for perpetrators of sexual violence. Manarat et al. (2021) emphasized the need for cross-sector collaboration and synergy between institutions, including women's empowerment offices, police, and the community, in order to create substantive protection.

In addition, internal mechanisms and SOPs of law enforcement officers often do not accommodate the principles of victim-based justice. For example, steps to assist victim witnesses, as stipulated in Law No. 31/2014, have not been fully implemented, both in the investigation, investigation, and court processes. Siregar et al. (2020) examined how the interests of victims are still often sidelined, one of which is due to the absence of regeneration of human resources who understand the psychosocial dimensions of sexual violence. Ideal law enforcement should be consistent in prioritizing the principles of nondiscrimination and substantive justice. For this reason, adjusting legal instruments to the

development of cases becomes absolute, for example in dealing with new forms of sexual violence through digital media. Wulandari and Krisnani (2021) emphasized the need for adaptive rules and high sensitivity from law enforcement officials in dealing with women victims of sexual violence in the digital era and information technology.

Amidst these challenges, the government and civil society have tried to advance the agenda of protecting women victims of sexual violence, from the formation of the Anti-Sexual Violence Task Force on several campuses, training of legal officers, to community-based educational campaigns. However, all of these initiatives require political support, budget allocations, and active community participation so that their implementation is not merely ceremonial.

Thus, the implementation of national legal instruments against sexual violence will be largely determined by the quality of synergy between sectors and the paradigm shift of the apparatus. All elements need to be committed on an ongoing basis so that every woman gets the right to protection, justice and empowerment as mandated by Law Number 12 of 2022 and other related legal instruments.

The integration of legal instruments, institutions, and cultural transformation is the main foundation for upholding the protection of women victims of sexual violence. Along the way, the national legal system must continue to be evaluated to create restorative justice that is oriented towards the comprehensive recovery of victims and the prevention of future acts of violence.

### **Social Stigma, Patriarchal Culture, and Reporting System in the Protection of Women Victims of Sexual Violence**

The social stigma attached to women victims of sexual violence is a serious challenge in efforts for legal protection and psychosocial recovery. In many cases, victims are faced with community pressure to remain silent or accept the harsh reality without obtaining justice (Wulandari & Krisnani, 2021). Stigma and stereotypes against women as crime provocateurs deepen psychological wounds, making victims reluctant to access legal and counseling services. In the realm of family and social environment, victims are often blamed, ostracized, and deprived of basic social rights as a result of the community's wrong assumptions (Oktaviani & Azeharie, 2020).

One of the root causes of stigma is the patriarchal culture that has long shaped the value system in society. In this patriarchal model, power relations automatically place men in a superior position and women must submit to gender-biased moral standards. This culture not only reduces women's rights to their bodies and dignity, but also hinders victims' efforts to report acts of sexual violence to the authorities (Aryana, 2022). Negative labeling of women victims, whether in the family, community, or educational institutions, reinforces the distance between women and the space of justice, and even prolongs the trauma caused by the sexual violence they experience (Putri et al., 2024; Siregar et al., 2020).

Victims of sexual crimes are often afraid of their problems becoming public, so many of them prefer to hide them or refuse to apply for compensation based on the fear that the legal process will become long and protracted, which can cause prolonged suffering (Fuadi & Muthahir, 2023). The system for reporting cases of sexual violence against women still faces systemic problems. Many reporting mechanisms are not women-friendly, lack assistance, and are thick with gender bias precedents from law enforcement officials (Wartoyo & Ginting, 2023). Victims often have to go through a long and grueling process, ranging from lack of information on reporting procedures, intimidation by the perpetrator or the environment, to heavy evidence requirements. The internalization of shame and fear among victims is further exacerbated by the lack of psychological support and the lack of assurance of protection of their identity during the reporting process (Azhar et al., 2023).

Strong social and cultural pressure causes victims to prefer to close themselves rather than report. According to Putri, Pembayun, and Qolbiah (2024), neglect of psychosocial aspects and slow responses from authorities often encourage victims not to pursue cases to legal channels. This has an impact on the high latent rate of sexual violence that is never included in official law enforcement data. Data from various studies show that an effective reporting system can only be achieved if victims receive optimal assistance from the initial stage of the complaint until it is completed in court.

Law No. 12 of 2022 and Law No. 31 of 2014 provide protection for witnesses and victims, including the right to assistance, confidentiality of identity, translators, and the right to information on case progress.

However, at a practical level, the implementation of these provisions has not touched all levels of society, especially for victims from vulnerable groups such as women with disabilities (Azhar et al., 2023). The bureaucracy's ability to adapt services is still often limited, as it generally interprets its role as providing only standard and general services to the public (Gulo et al., 2023). The lack of continuous advocacy and legal knowledge makes it increasingly difficult for women victims to access the protection rights that are normatively guaranteed.

Many studies have shown that stigma, a patriarchal culture, and a weak reporting system have an impact on efforts to comprehensively recover women victims of sexual violence. These conditions also affect the process of social rehabilitation and integration back into society. Manarat et al. (2021) emphasized the importance of cross-sector collaboration in handling victims, ranging from gender-based education, increasing the capacity of human resources of the authorities, to the need to establish a complaint environment that is friendly to women and children.

A vacuum or weak reporting system often triggers opportunities for perpetrator impunity, because victims are not confident in the effectiveness of legal protection or do not trust existing legal institutions (Purwanti & Hardianti, 2018). The habit of resolving sexual violence privately or within the family increases the risk of victims not receiving substantial justice. This shows that the transformation of reporting culture must lead to the creation of access to information, personal safety, and the application of restorative justice principles.

To dismantle the persistent barriers rooted in social stigma, patriarchal norms, and ineffective reporting systems, a multi-pronged approach must be adopted. It begins with reshaping public perception through inclusive education that challenges gender stereotypes and normalizes open conversations about sexual violence. Schools, media, and religious institutions must play an active role in changing the narrative from victim-blaming to survivor support. Simultaneously, legal and institutional reforms must prioritize survivor-centered approaches by integrating trauma-informed practices, simplifying reporting procedures, and ensuring that all actors—from police to judges—are trained in gender sensitivity. Without systemic efforts that simultaneously address cultural attitudes and institutional shortcomings, the promise of protection for women victims of sexual violence will remain unfulfilled.

Transformation of the reporting system must also be accompanied by a cultural change campaign and public education to erode the stigma surrounding victims. Continuous education and interdisciplinary training for officers will strengthen legal sensitivity towards victims. This is in line with the concept of integral protection as stipulated in national legislative instruments.

In the digital era, the dissemination of news of sexual violence cases through online media is often not followed by the protection of victims' privacy. Hikmalia, Cangara, and Wahid (2022) highlight the importance of ethical information management so that victims are not exposed to new stigmas or threats in the online space. The absence of ethical guidelines for reporting has finally become a new challenge for sustainable legal protection efforts.

Synergy between legal instruments, service institutions and civil society is a fundamental factor in reducing the destructive impact of social stigma and patriarchal culture. Systemic efforts to create a responsive and women-friendly reporting system need to be matched with inclusive policies from the state, progressive public education, and direct involvement from families and local communities.

Women victims of sexual violence have the right to receive full assistance and freedom from all forms of pressure, threats, or discrimination during the legal process. Psychosocial rehabilitation and economic empowerment are important so that women can regain their trust and independence. The collective commitment of all elements of society must be increased so that the protection of women victims of sexual violence is not just a formality of legislation, but is actually realized in practice.

## **Conclusion**

The protection of women victims of sexual violence still faces severe challenges, ranging from unbalanced power relations, deep-rooted patriarchal culture, to weak reporting systems and the implementation of national legal instruments. The culture of society that often blames victims and a legal system that is still less friendly to women makes many cases of sexual violence not handled fairly, so victims prefer to remain silent and not report. The implementation of Law Number 12 of 2022 has indeed

strengthened the position of victims in the realm of law, but it still requires synergy, partiality from the authorities, and significant changes in social mentality so that women can receive psychosocial recovery, legal justice, and fulfillment of their basic rights without pressure and discrimination.

This phenomenon shows that efforts to overcome sexual violence against women do not rely on legal instruments only, but also accompanied by cultural transformation and sustainable education in society. Inequality in power relations, perpetuation of patriarchal culture, and social stigma form an ecosystem that exacerbates the vulnerability of victims, even increasing the number of latent violence that is not revealed. If there are no simultaneous structural and cultural changes, then law enforcement and protection of women victims of sexual violence will only run in place, not touching the root of the problem and failing to prevent similar cases in the future.

In order to realize meaningful protection of women victims of sexual violence, it is necessary to strengthen cross-sectoral synergies, update victim-friendly reporting mechanisms, increase gender sensitivity and professionalism of law enforcement officials, and consistent public literacy campaigns to erode patriarchal culture and victim stigma. The state must ensure consistent implementation of the law, provide space for rehabilitation and victim empowerment programs, and encourage the role of families, communities, and the media as the frontline in creating a fair, safe, and caring environment for women's rights.

## References

- Adiputra, S., Awanisa, A., & Purba, Y. H. 2022. The Urgency of the Law on Sexual Violence Criminal Act in Combating Sexual Violence in Indonesia. *Ius Poenale*, 3(1), 25–38. <https://doi.org/10.25041/ip.v3i1.2521>
- Andini, S. D., & Faridah, H. 2022. Tinjauan Kriminologi Mengenai Ketimpangan Relasi Kuasa dan Relasi Gender dalam Kasus Kekerasan Seksual. *JUSTITIA: Jurnal Ilmu Hukum dan Humaniora*, 9(5), 2279–2292.
- Anwar, F., Osterman, K., & Björkqvist, K. 2022. Sexual Harassment and Psychological Well-being of the Victims: The Role of Abuse-related Shame, Fear of Being Harassed, and Social Support. *Eurasian Journal of Medical Investigation*, 6(2), 227–239. <https://doi.org/10.14744/ejmi.2022.73988>
- Aryana, I. W. P. S. 2022. Tinjauan Relasi Kuasa pada Kekerasan Seksual dalam Hubungan Personal. *Jurnal Yustitia*, 16(1).
- Azhar, J. K., Hidayat, E. N., & Raharjo, S. T. 2023. Kekerasan Seksual: Perempuan Disabilitas Rentan Menjadi Korban. *Share: Social Work Journal*, 13(1), 82.

- Bungin, B. 2020. *Metodologi Penelitian Kualitatif: Aktualisasi Metodologis ke Arah Ragam Varian Kontemporer*. Raja Grafindo Persada.
- Creswell, J. W. 2014. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches* (4th ed.). SAGE Publication.
- Elisna, A., & Rahim, A. J. 2024. Deciphering Victim Precipitation: A New Lens on Sentencing for Sexual Violence Cases. *Negara Hukum*, 14(2), 181-191.
- Farah, N., Musahwi, M., & Hidayatullah, M. R. 2023. Kekerasan Berbasis Gender dalam Kasus Perceraian pada Masa Pandemi Covid-19 di Kabupaten Cirebon. *Yinyang: Jurnal Studi Islam Gender dan Anak*, 18(2), 177-196.
- Fuadi, A., & Muthahir, A. 2023. Analisis Yuridis Penegakan Hukum terhadap Korban Kekerasan Seksual (Studi Kasus Putusan Pengadilan Negeri Kota Lubuklinggau). *Lakidende Law Review*, 2(3), 538-546.
- Gulo, M. W., Manalu, D., & Rajagukguk, J. 2023. Analisis Permasalahan Pelecehan Seksual Kaum Disabilitas di Kota Medan. *Jurnal Ilmu Sosial dan Politik*, 3(2), 186-204. <https://doi.org/10.51622/jispol.v3i2.2162>
- Hikmalia, W., Cangara, H., & Wahid, U. 2022. Analisis Framing Pemberitaan Kekerasan Seksual pada Perempuan di Media Online. *Jurnal Ranah Komunikasi (JRK)*, 6(1), 30-41. <https://doi.org/10.25077/rk.6.1.30-41.2022>
- Irawan, A. 2023. Perlindungan Hukum bagi Perempuan Penyandang Disabilitas Intelektual Korban Kekerasan Seksual. *Jurnal Hukum: RESPUBLICA*, 22(2), 1-21.
- Lalungkan, M. 2015. Tinjauan Yuridis terhadap Perlindungan Anak dalam Sistem Peradilan Pidana Anak. *Lex Crimen*, 4(1), 5-14.
- Manarat, Y. A., Kaawoan, J., & Rachman, I. 2021. Peran Dinas Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Perlindungan Anak dalam Menangani Korban Kekerasan Seksual Pada Anak di Kota Kotamobagu. *Jurnal Governance*, 1(1), 1-8.
- Mannika, G. 2018. Studi Deskriptif Potensi Terjadinya Kekerasan Seksual pada Remaja Perempuan. *Calyptra: Jurnal Ilmiah Mahasiswa Universitas Surabaya*, 7(1), 2540-2553.
- Muhid, A., Fauziyah, N., Khariroh, L. M., & Andiarna, F. 2019. Quality of Life Perempuan Penyintas Kekerasan Seksual: Studi Kualitatif. *Journal of Health Science and Prevention*, 3(1), 47-55. <https://doi.org/10.29080/jhsp.v3i1.185>
- Neuman, W. 2014. *Social Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches* (7th ed.). Pearson.
- Oktaviani, R., & Azeharie, S. S. 2020. Penyingkapan Diri Perempuan Penyintas Kekerasan Seksual. *Koneksi*, 4(1), 98. <https://doi.org/10.24912/kn.v4i1.6635>
- Purwanti, A., & Hardianti, M. 2018. Strategi Penyelesaian Tindak Kekerasan Seksual terhadap Perempuan dan Anak Melalui RUU Kekerasan Seksual. *Masalah-Masalah Hukum*, 47(2), 138. <https://doi.org/10.14710/mmh.47.2.2018.138-148>
- Putri, L. R., Pembayun, N. I. P., & Qolbiah, C. W. 2024. Dampak Kekerasan Seksual terhadap Perempuan: Sebuah Sistematis Review. *Jurnal Psikologi*, 1(4), 17.
- Rohmah, S. N., & Nurjamillah, I. 2021. Urgensi Optimalisasi Perlindungan. *Al-Mashlahah Jurnal Hukum Islam dan Pranata Sosial*, 10(1), 163-184.

- Safira, M. ., & El-Yunusi, M. Y. M. 2023. The Dynamics of Violence Against Children in the Family Environment: An Analysis according to the Principles of Islamic Law and the Perspective of Law No. 35 of 2014 on the Amendment to Law No. 23 of 2002 on Child Protection. *Legalis et Socialis Studiis*, 1(2), 34-42.
- Sari, D., Rahmaniah, S. E., Yuliono, A., Alamri, A. R., Utami, S., Andraeni, V., & Wati, R. 2023. Edukasi dan Upaya Pencegahan Kekerasan Seksual pada Remaja. *Jurnal Pembelajaran Pemberdayaan Masyarakat (JP2M)*, 4(1), 48-59. <https://doi.org/10.33474/jp2m.v4i1.19818>
- Siregar, E., Rakhmawaty, D., & Siregar, Z. A. 2020. Kekerasan Seksual terhadap Perempuan: Realitas dan Hukum. *PROGRESIF: Jurnal Hukum*, 14(1), 1-14. <https://doi.org/10.33019/progresif.v14i1.1778>
- Strauss, A., & Corbin, J. 2007. *Basics of Qualitative Research: Techniques and Procedures for Developing Grounded Theory* (3rd ed.). SAGE Publication.
- Sumera, M. 2013. Perbuatan Kekerasan/Pelecehan Seksual terhadap Perempuan. *Lex et Societatis*, 1(2), 39-49.
- Tomisin, A. 2020. Culture, Religion and Help-Seeking for Intimate Partner Violence Victims in Nigeria (A Narrative Review). *African Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Research*, 3(2), 56. [www.abjournals.org](http://www.abjournals.org)
- Wartoyo, F. X., & Ginting, Y. P. 2023. Kekerasan Seksual pada Lingkungan Perguruan Tinggi Ditinjau dari Nilai Pancasila. *Jurnal Lemhannas RI*, 11(1), 29-46. <https://doi.org/10.55960/jlri.v11i1.423>
- Wulandari, E. P., & Krisnani, H. 2021. Kecenderungan Menyalahkan Korban (Victim-Blaming) dalam Kekerasan Seksual terhadap Perempuan sebagai Dampak Kekeliruan Atribusi. *Share : Social Work Journal*, 10(2), 187. <https://doi.org/10.24198/share.v10i2.31408>