



## The Psychological Impact Of Domestic Violence in Medan

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**Abstract.** Violence against women is any violent act towards women which results in or tends to cause physical, sexual, or psychological damage and suffering, either happened to adult women, daughters, and teenagers. It includes threatening, coercion, or limiting women's movement on purpose. Also, the violence abuses can occur in a family or a society. In fact, psychological abuse has more effect on women than physical abuse. It causes long-term reactions such as fear, anxiety, exhaustion, post-trauma stress disorder, sleeping and eating disorder. Another effect of domestic violence toward wives is reproductive health disorders causing sociological disorders. This paper brings up how to provide proper handling of domestic violence cases while many of its victims do not receive justice. The research method is conducting interviews in West Medan Precinct by using the empirical normative research method. The result is to provide proper education relating to domestic violence cases, specifically towards the victims who are affected psychologically and physically. Thus, the nurses should assist the victims either while doing medical, health, or psychological activity. Also, other parties, such as family, police, district attorney, advocates, social institutions, or protection from the court, should be active in protecting the victims from domestic violence.

**Keyword:** Domestic violence; psychological impact

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## 1. Introduction

The number of victims of domestic violence keeps increasing every year. There were 98 domestic violence cases throughout 2015 in Medan, and it increased significantly during the pandemic of Covid-19 and the Community Activities Restrictions Enforcement (PPKM). The victim comes from women with different professions. Domestic violence did not only happen to housewives, but it also happens to higher education women, women who are working in various institutions in Medan, and women who are working in private companies.

Violence is an invasion of one's physical or mental integrity. Fundamentally, human violence came from various sources. Nevertheless, the violence towards specific sex was caused by gender assumptions. This violence is named bias-gender violence. Gender-based violence was caused by power inequality within a society (Andayani & Hidayat, 2019). One type of violence is domestic violence (KDRT). Domestic violence is defined by the Law on the Elimination of Domestic Violence (UU PKDRT) as any action against anyone, particularly a woman, that causes physical, sexual, psychological, or domestic neglect, as well as threats against the law within the framework of household (Hadi, 2020).

Domestic violence is a deeply rooted problem and occurs in every country. It is closely related to human rights. In this case, the international society has constructed practical legal standards, particularly domestic violence (Poetri Paraniti & Wiryawan, 2020). For example, beating a woman. The act has been included in the international convention of human rights legally bound towards countries that have ratified it. The international documents of human rights include the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). Those documents are the general standards on human rights that the victim of domestic violence can use to sue their countries (Anggriani, 2017). Several cases of domestic violence showed that the country failed to acknowledge the victim's complaint. Thus, a country can be sanctioned if it is a member of international instruments as above. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and its Protocols, as well as the Convention Against Torture, might be used to carry out the same act (CAT). Local regulations can also help to safeguard women who have been victims of domestic violence. Other international treaties include the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), the American Convention on Human Rights (ACHR), the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence Against Women (Belém do Pará Convention), and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (the Banjul Charter) are the primary international human rights documents that victims of domestic violence can rely on. If human rights were viewed as legal rights, it has two normative consequences.

They are:

- 1) It is obligatory for the responsible person (the charged party) to respect/not violate the rights or fulfill the claims that ensue from the rights;
- 2) To repair if the obligation is violated/not fulfilled (Chairunida, 2021; Muladi, 2017).

"Victim protection" can be viewed on two sides.

- (a) legal protection not to become the criminal victim (meaning human rights protection or one's legal interest);
- (b) protection to receive legal/compensation guarantee upon the suffering/one's loss of one's family member that becomes the criminal victim (victim compensation).

The compensation can be in the forms of vindication (rehabilitation), inner balance recovery (absolution), compensation (restitution, guarantee, social welfare compensation), and others. On the other side, there are some legal principles to be considered in providing legal protection to the crime victim. In the context of criminal code, the law principles should be involved in material and formal criminal code. Apparently, the law less acknowledges the legal protection of the crime victims, either material criminal code or criminal law procedural code (KUHP). The law prefers to acknowledge the legal protection of the suspect and the accused. This is affected by several factors, such as: (1) the law itself, (2) legal awareness of the victim, (3) supporting facilities, (4) human resources. The legislation determines the realization of the legal order because the legislation is the primary legal source (Hia et al., 2020).

Even though there is Law No. 23/2004, many victims still do not report their cases to the police because (1) they are ashamed, reluctant to the family, and a disgrace if society knows it. The reason occurs due to different understandings circling the society. One of the reasons is that the violence against the wife is the result of her faults. (2) Economically dependent on the perpetrator (the husband). (3) The unsteady police work in handling the cases is the consideration of women not to report the violence upon her (Nurtjahyo, 2020). In the case of psychological abuse caused by domestic violence, the police said that many articles of domestic violence law are dependent. The articles should be used together with other articles in the criminal law procedural code (KUHP). Regarding this matter, it can be viewed in two aspects. First, Law No. 23/2004 is deemed incomplete if viewed substantially from the point of view of procedure law. The law does not provide a particular procedure law to handle domestic violence. Second, the law enforcement officers have not fully received the socialization of the law that causes them to be reluctant to use it. Another point is that the people, particularly the victims of domestic violence, do not fully trust this country's legal system due to the facts before the issuance of Law No. 23/2004. Most domestic violence reports did not proceed to investigate the perpetrator. Thus, if any victim creates a report, they will not receive appropriate protection from the law enforcers, especially the policemen (Aulia, 2018).

In some cases, the legal protection of the victims is limited only to the material aspect. For example, the victim has a right to sue a compensation against the perpetrator. Hopefully, the victim's suffering will end after she receives the compensation. Meanwhile, the victim experiences complex effects after being abused. Not only material loss but the abuse affects her physically and psychologically. For example, SNJ had burns on her face because her husband poured acid liquid on her. From the above description, the fundamental principles of crime/abuse victims can be debated. Those principles are

1. functional/benefits of protection to victim, individually, or the society in general,
2. the criminal responsibility upon perpetrator or accused acts to the victim, and
3. compensation or fine upon the loss sustained by the victim/victim's family.

According to the writer, the perpetrator (the accused) should be responsible for the victim's interest by giving material compensation. This provision is relevant to domestic violence victims regulated under Law No. 23/2004, which regulates the criminal fines for domestic violence convicts.

Additionally, the victims of domestic violence were affected psychologically. They have anxiety, fear, depression, wariness, daydreaming, gloomy, and whiny. They felt helpless, careless, lost interest in taking care of themselves, had an unhealthy lifestyle, decreased concentration, low self-esteem, reluctant to speak to others, limited themselves, lost the courage to give opinions or act, confused, and easily distracted. They are doing self-harm, suicide attempts, exaggerated, lost composure, aggressive, violent, and easily angered in talking and doing something. Not only that, but they are also not calm, having difficulties forgetting the violence they had, having traumas, physically wounded, physically disabled, paranoid, and not ready to build a new relationship (Saragih, 2017). Most victims of domestic violence are women. They are discriminated against in household, education, politics, social culture, economic, and security. Furthermore, it happens not only to women with lower education but also to higher educated women in their workplace. Based on the above explanation, domestic violence still happens to higher educated women or any women who have received socialization on domestic violence.

## **2. Research Method**

This research took its location in West Medan Precinct by using normative and empirical data and a qualitative approach using interviews and documentation. In the precinct, a police officer, initial AH, said that most perpetrators of domestic violence are the husbands of the victims. This concludes from the domestic violence cases during 2020 until 2021. Based on the information from the victims, there are several forms of domestic violence, such as psychological abuse, physical abuse, or both, causing limb disability.

### 3. Research Results and Discussion

The factors causing domestic violence in Medan are 1) Economy, 2) Affairs, and 3) Not having the same vision and mission in building the household that causes conflict between the husband and the wife, leading to the husband violating his wife (Sutrisminah, 2012). Per the interview results from the victims, domestic violence can affect physically and psychologically. The victims have several psychological impacts: lost concentration while working, being careless, confused, easily forgotten, and having sleeping disorders. In Medan, the domestic violence cases are caused by the economy (65%), affairs (20%), not having the same vision and mission in building the household (10%), and negligence (7%) (Polsek Medan Barat, 2021).

In Law No. 23/2004 article 10 on the victim's rights, the victim shall be entitled to get:

- a. Temporary or based on a court's ruling on protective instruction, protection of the family, police, district attorney's office, court, advocate, social institution, or another party.
- b. Medically necessary health-care services
- c. Special consideration is given to the victim's confidentiality
- d. At each level of the examination process, a social worker and a legal aid professional provide counterparts in line with laws and regulations.
- e. Guidance in spiritual matters

According to Chapter V of the Law on Government and Public Obligations, specifically Article 13, the government and regional governments may make the following efforts in accordance with their respective roles and duties:

- a. Establishing a special service room at a police station
- b. Providing officials, health personnel, social workers, and spiritual mentors
- c. Preparing and developing a service program cooperation system and mechanism involving a party that is easily accessible to the victim
- d. Providing protection for the victim's counterpart, witnesses, family, and friends.

The officials have conducted all those above handling efforts to solve the issue of domestic violence in Medan. Thus, it can be concluded that domestic violence cases can be handled according to each victim's case. 63% of cases were handled by divorce agreed by both parties (the husband and wife). 17% of cases were handled by spiritual guidance service (religion). Health services handled 13% of cases, and 7% of cases were handled by providing skills so the victim could live independently (Polsek Medan Barat, 2021).

Apparently, the handling of domestic violence cases is not optimal and not as victims expected. The victim had more damage caused by the authorities. In short, the victim did not receive equal justice that she should receive, especially if the verdict falls upon divorce. The victim did not receive her rights as the wife. For example, the perpetrator's family tends to tell the victim to be more patient and not to report the violence she suffered to the authorities. They were considering

that it would hurt their children. In contrast, the husband did not fulfill his duty to his wife. It is only mere words. In legal terms, it is called Justice Restorative. Thus, the victim suffered from trauma as the psychological effect of domestic violence.

#### 4. Conclusion and Suggestions

Based on the above outlines, the causes of domestic violence include 1) Economy, 2) Affairs, 3) Not having the same vision and mission in building the household. Most victims found that they did not get justice if the police handled their case because of the family's intervention. Thus, the police could not cover the victims' rights that should be defended. In that case, there should be a proper effort to handle domestic violence cases accurately by providing a protection from the family, police, judges, advocates, social institutions, court, and other means of legal aid. All of this can cooperate to educate the women, especially housewives, about the crime of domestic violence. The victims of domestic violence, especially they who had physical or psychological abuse, should receive a prompt and accurate help through health services based on their medical needs. An assistance from the nurses and psychiatrist' services should be conducted to provide psychological treatment of the victims who had trauma. Last but not least, the victims should also receive spiritual guidance.

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