
EMPOWERING WOMEN VICTIMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN BANDUNG CITY

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Abstract

The purpose of this research is to find out the empowerment of women victims of sexual violence in Bandung City. This research uses a qualitative approach with in-depth interviews as a data collection method. The research subjects consisted of women who were victims of sexual violence in Bandung City and had participated in existing empowerment programs. The researcher conducted a thematic analysis of the collected data to identify themes and patterns that emerged in the empowerment experience of women victims of sexual violence. Based on the thematic analysis, this study found several important findings. First, the empowerment program for women victims of sexual violence in Bandung City has a positive impact in increasing their independence and self-confidence. Local community involvement and social support also play an important role in the empowerment process. Second, challenges faced by women victims of sexual violence include social stigma, limited access to health and financial services, and lack of trust in the legal system. Third, women's active participation in decision-making and advocacy for their rights are key to their empowerment. This study concludes that empowering women victims of sexual violence in Bandung City is an effective approach to help them recover holistically. Although this study provides a better understanding of the empowerment of women victims of sexual violence in Bandung City, there are still some gaps that can be the direction of future research. One such gap is the need for further research on the influence of cultural and social factors in the empowerment of women victims of sexual violence in the context of Bandung city.

Keywords: Empowerment of Women, Victims of Sexual Violence; Bandung City.

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1. Introduction

Sexual violence against women is a serious problem plaguing society, and the city of Bandung is no exception. Sexual violence includes various acts that violate women's rights, such as rape, sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, and human trafficking. The impact is very damaging, both physically and psychologically, and can disrupt the lives of women who are victims.

Empowerment of women victims of sexual violence is an important approach in an effort to restore them and build a better life. Empowerment involves strengthening individuals and groups, with the aim of giving control, autonomy, and independence to women who have

experienced sexual violence. This enables them to overcome the traumatic impact they have experienced, develop skills, increase self-confidence, and take an active role in society.

The importance of research on the empowerment of women victims of sexual violence in Bandung city is very relevant. This research aims to provide a deeper understanding of the experiences of women victims of sexual violence in participating in existing empowerment programs, identify factors that influence the success of the program, and evaluate the impact felt by these women.

Violence against women is considered a crime that is taken seriously by the government because there is a tremendous impact on a woman if she becomes one of its victims. Clear evidence of the government's seriousness in preventing violence against women is the establishment of an institution tasked with assisting victims of violence against women in Indonesia, namely the Integrated Service Center for the Empowerment of Women and Children (P2TP2A).

Sexual violence that occurs against women consists of various types. As reported on its website, Komnas Perempuan divides sexual violence into 15 types, namely (Fimela, 2014) (1) rape, (2) sexual intimidation including threats or attempted rape, (3) sexual harassment, (4) sexual exploitation, (5) trafficking in women for sexual purposes, (6) forced prostitution, (7) sexual slavery, (8) forced marriage, (8) forced marriage, including custodial divorce, (9) forced pregnancy, (10) forced abortion, (11) forced contraception and sterilization, (12) sexual torture, (13) inhuman and sexual punishment, (14) traditional sexual practices that harm or discriminate against women, (15) sexual control, including through discriminatory rules based on morality and religion. There are 250 cases of violence against women handled by the Bandung City Integrated Service Center for Women and Children Empowerment (P2TP2A), consisting of 100 cases of sexual violence, 72 cases of psychological violence, 26 cases of physical violence, 7 cases of economic violence, 13 cases of neglect, 12 cases of trafficking, 8 cases of violence related to child custody battles, and 12 other cases. The state-of-the-art research is a study of the Condition of Empowerment of Women Victims of Sexual Violence in Bandung City, which is still a new issue because of the high level of violence from year to year. Violence against women and children takes many forms, including physical, psychological, sexual and economic. The state through the Integrated Service Center for Women and Children

Empowerment (P2TP2A) provides assistance to women and children, especially victims of sexual violence. In Bandung City, P2TP2A / UPTD PPA (Regional Technical Implementation Unit for the Protection of Women and Children.

From the various incidents of violence experienced by women and children, the Bandung Regional Technical Implementation Unit for the Protection of Women and Children (UPTD PPA) faces challenges in providing assistance to victims of sexual violence. The main challenge faced is the lack of openness and cooperation from victims in reporting or following up on cases of violence they have experienced. This is due to feelings of shame and deep trauma experienced by victims. Analyzing the problem, the focus of this research is the empowerment of women victims of sexual violence in Bandung City, as well as the role of UPTD PPA in reducing the number of sexual violence against women through the socialization and advocacy tasks they carry out.

The urgency of this research is very important to propose and carry out. The results of this study can be used as input and contribution of ideas in empowering women victims of sexual violence in Bandung City. It can be used as reference material for other researchers in the Local Government environment related to the empowerment of women victims of sexual violence in Bandung City. Through this research, it is hoped that valuable findings will be found regarding the success and constraints of existing empowerment programs in the city of Bandung. These findings can be the basis for developing more effective programs, pointing out needs that must be met, and providing guidance for better public policies in the response to sexual violence.

2. Method

This research uses a qualitative descriptive approach with a focus on the experiences of women victims of sexual violence who have participated in empowerment programs in the city of Bandung. A qualitative approach is used to deeply understand the experiences, perceptions, and meanings given by respondents to the empowerment process they have participated in. (LEXY J. MOLEONG M.A 2018) Descriptive research is research that describes and paints the state of the object of research at the present time as it is based on facts. The object of this research is the Integrated Service Center for Women and Children Empowerment (P2TP2A).

Data collection is done by documentation studies, information is obtained through facts stored in the form of archives, regulations and so on. The results of the document are processed by researchers to become important and useful information for P2TP2A. The data that has been collected will be processed with an interactive analysis model (Miles 2005).

This study aims to determine the empowerment of women victims of sexual violence in Bandung City. The research subjects in this study are women who are victims of sexual violence in Bandung city and have participated in existing empowerment programs. This research will involve several respondents who meet the inclusion criteria. The research location is where the research is conducted. Determining the research location is a critical stage in a study because determining the research location means that the object and purpose have been determined, making it easier for researchers to conduct research. This research was conducted at the Bandung City Women and Children Protection Empowerment Office (DP3A). The issue of how the local government through the Bandung City Women and Child Protection Empowerment Office empowers women victims of sexual violence in Bandung City is quite interesting to study further. This is important in efforts to prevent and empower women victims of sexual violence in Bandung City.

3. Finding and Discussion

In the last 5 years, in Bandung City, there have been approximately 171 cases of violence against women and children reported, with the following data:

| No. | Year | Number Of Cases |
|------------|-------------|------------------------|
| 1 | 2017 | 8 |
| 2 | 2018 | 19 |
| 3 | 2019 | 49 |
| 4 | 2020 | 39 |
| 5 | 2021 | 71 |

Cases often experienced by women include domestic violence and sexual harassment. Meanwhile, cases that often occur to women and children include sexual harassment and sexual abuse. In these cases, victims can suffer both physical and non-physical losses. Physical losses can include disabilities, injuries, and even death. While non-physical losses include mental

disorders and a sense of ongoing fear. Sexual violence according to Harkrisnowo (B. Suyanto 2010: 264) is any attack of a sexual nature against women, whether there has been intercourse or not; and regardless of the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim. Sexual abuse (sexual violence), refers to any sexual activity, the form can be in the form of assault or without assault. Assault category, causing suffering in the form of physical, emotional injury. Forms of sexual violence: seduced, poked, hugged, by force, squeezed, forced masturbation, oral sex, anal sex, raped (Gultom.M. 2013).

Based on the explanation of article 6 letter b of Law No. 31 of 2014 concerning Witness and Victim Protection: "Psychosocial assistance / Psychosocial rehabilitation is all forms of psychological and social services and assistance aimed at helping to alleviate, protect and restore the physical, psychological, social and spiritual conditions of victims so that they are able to carry out their social functions reasonably again". Psychosocial assistance basically unites psychological treatment that relies on interpersonal understanding of victims with socio-cultural issues that surround the lives of victims (Mukarnawati 2012).

Psychosocial assistance is one form of assistance provided by social workers to help children and women victims of sexual crimes to reintegrate into society. In order to obtain medical rehabilitation, social rehabilitation, and social reintegration from institutions or agencies responsible for child protection, it is important to refer to the results of Community Research conducted by Community Supervisors and social reports prepared by Professional Social Workers or Social Welfare Workers. When providing assistance, both by Social Workers and Psychologists, it is necessary to apply the applicable code of ethics.

According to the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection of the Republic of Indonesia, there are important things that must be remembered when working to help victims of violence. The code of ethics is (Sofia 2012).

- a. Maintaining confidentiality Cases of violence are sensitive and prone to misuse of information. Confidentiality plays an important role in these situations as the issue not only involves the victim, but also the perpetrator. Therefore, maintaining confidentiality is very significant.
- b. Providing Informed Consent Before starting an interview or providing any form of treatment, an interviewer or service provider should give the client an informed consent

form. This form contains a statement that the client is aware of what will be asked of him/her (information) and the actions that will be performed on him/her.

- c. Safeguarding the well-being of the client and oneself, Working with clients who have experienced traumatic events such as violence is no easy task. The main goal is to maintain the mental well-being of clients, so that they do not experience re-traumatization from social workers or service providers. However, it is also important not to forget about one's own well-being as a service provider. This is done to prevent the occurrence of a second trauma (secondary trauma).

Efforts to empower women victims of sexual violence in Bandung city to help them get support and recover, some of the steps taken include :

- a. Mentoring Services: Provides professional accompaniment services for women victims of sexual violence. This includes emotional support, counseling, legal information, and assistance in court proceedings.
- b. Integrated Service Center: Establish or strengthen the Integrated Service Center for Women and Children Empowerment (P2TP2A) in Bandung City. P2TP2A is a place that provides integrated services, such as counseling, legal assistance, medical services, and social rehabilitation for victims of sexual violence.
- c. Socialization and Education: Conduct socialization and education programs that aim to raise public awareness about sexual violence, women's rights, and how to support victims. This can be done through campaigns, seminars, workshops, and community activities.
- d. Cooperation with Institutions: Build close cooperation between government agencies, women's protection agencies, non-governmental organizations, and health institutions in providing support and services to women victims of sexual violence. This involves coordination and collaboration to ensure that victims receive comprehensive assistance.
- e. Training and Capacity Building: Conduct training and capacity building for social workers, counselors, medical officers, and other relevant service providers. This aims to increase their understanding of sexual violence, trauma, therapeutic approaches, and sensitive and effective mentoring techniques.

- f. **Advocacy and Policy:** Advocate for stronger women's protection policies, including laws that protect victims of sexual violence and punish perpetrators. Support efforts to increase awareness and protection of women victims of sexual violence at the public policy level.
- g. **Community Support:** Encourage community participation in supporting women victims of sexual violence. This can be done through the establishment of support groups, solidarity networks, or other community programs that provide a safe space for victims to share their experiences and gain support from fellow victims or concerned individuals.

Empowering women victims of sexual violence in Bandung City requires a comprehensive and collaborative approach, involving various stakeholders and paying attention to the individual needs of victims. Through the implementation of these programs with good support and collaboration between various parties, it is hoped that the empowerment of women victims of sexual violence in Bandung City can increase and have a positive impact in restoring and empowering victims. empowerment of women victims of sexual violence in Bandung City has not reached the maximum level. Some of the factors that influence it are Lack of Resources, Limited resources such as budget, manpower, and infrastructure can be an obstacle in implementing the program to empower women victims of sexual violence to the fullest. Lack of financial support and adequate staffing can affect the capacity to provide comprehensive services and assistance. Public Awareness, the level of public awareness of the issue of sexual violence and the importance of women's empowerment can also affect the effectiveness of the program. If public awareness is low, victims may not get enough support and understanding from their surrounding environment. Coordination and Collaboration, The implementation of programs to empower women victims of sexual violence requires good cooperation and collaboration between various stakeholders, including the government, non-governmental organizations, and civil society. If coordination and collaboration are not optimal, the implementation of women's empowerment programs can be hampered. Changing culture and norms that support sexual violence and gender inequality is a complex task that takes time. Cultural transformation that is more inclusive and supportive of women's empowerment is a long-term effort that needs to be carried out in a sustainable manner.

4. Conclusion

In the implementation of the program to empower women victims of sexual violence in Bandung City, a role is needed that involves various parties. One of the inhibiting factors is if the duties and responsibilities of each agency or institution do not explicitly include aspects of women's empowerment. If their focus and tasks are limited to certain issues, such as child protection or other areas, then women's empowerment may not receive optimal attention. To overcome these barriers, it is important to encourage coordination and collaboration between the various departments and agencies. This involves a shared understanding of the importance of women's empowerment in the context of sexual violence and synergy in program implementation efforts. Efforts are needed to integrate aspects of women's empowerment into the organizational structure and tasks of each agency, so that women's empowerment becomes an integral part of the various activities and programs carried out.

In addition, advocacy efforts can also be made to raise awareness about the importance of women's empowerment and advocate for official recognition and a stronger role for relevant agencies and institutions in this regard. With better support from various agencies and institutions, the implementation of programs to empower women victims of sexual violence in Bandung City can run more effectively and sustainably.

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