

THE POWER RELATIONS IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN WEST LOMBOK REGENCY

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to examine cases of domestic violence in West Lombok Regency and explore the connection between power relations and domestic violence in the region. The research methodology employed is empirical legal research, utilizing several approaches, namely the statutory approach, the conceptual approach, and the sociological approach. The findings reveal that from 2023 to July 2024, there were 37 reported cases of domestic violence in West Lombok Regency. These cases include physical abuse, psychological abuse, sexual violence, and neglect within households. The victims are predominantly women, particularly wives, and children. The factors influencing the relationship between power dynamics and domestic violence include gender bias and the authority or power held within the household. In terms of power relations, husbands tend to exert high levels of conflict, control, and violence over their wives. The power wielded by the husband often oppresses members of the household, creating a power imbalance that adversely affects both wives and children. Furthermore, the patriarchal system, which grants husbands the authority to make all household decisions, exacerbates this imbalance. The power held by husbands often manifests in abusive behaviour, regardless of the family's economic standing. Even those with sufficient economic means and social status can engage in domestic violence, driven by the belief that, as the head of the family, the husband has the right to do so.

Keywords: *Power Relations, Domestic Violence, West Lombok Regency.*

INTRODUCTION

Violence can occur anywhere and can be perpetrated by anyone. It can happen in school environments, workplaces, higher education settings, community environments, and even within families. Perpetrators of violence can include anyone, including family members. The family, which should ideally serve as the safest space for its members, is not exempt from being a site where violence occurs. Domestic violence can happen between parents and children, between husbands and wives, and even between employers and domestic workers.

Domestic violence has become a global public health issue. According to the World Health Organization (2020), more than 736 million women have been affected by this issue at some

point in their lives, with the current global prevalence estimated at one in three women. It is estimated that 42 percent of female victims have suffered life-threatening physical injuries, while 60 percent experience at least one mental health disorder. Tragically, many are not so fortunate, as 137 women lose their lives to domestic violence every day.¹

Society, generally, perceives the environment outside the home as more dangerous than inside. This perception arises because most reported and publicized acts of violence are crimes that occur outside the home. Meanwhile, the home is regarded as a safe haven for family members and residents, where interactions are expected to be founded on love, mutual respect, and appreciation. However, domestic violence is often likened to an iceberg phenomenon, where what is visible on the surface is vastly outweighed by what remains hidden beneath.

The term “violence” refers to behaviour that can be either overt (explicit) or covert (implicit), offensive (aggressive) or defensive (protective), and involves the use of force against others. According to Article 1 of Law Number 23 of 2004, domestic violence is defined as any act committed against an individual, particularly a woman, that results in physical, sexual, or psychological suffering, and/or neglect within the household. This definition also includes threats to commit such acts, coercion, or the unlawful deprivation of liberty within the domestic sphere.

Domestic violence is a term encompassing a range of deviant, aggressive, and violent behaviours aimed at harming the victim while asserting power and superiority for the perpetrator.² There is no single, clear definition of domestic violence. However, it is generally understood to include:

- (a) Physical violence, referring to any act that causes injury or death.
- (b) Psychological violence, encompassing actions and statements that result in fear, loss of self-confidence, inability to act, and feelings of helplessness in the victim, particularly women.
- (c) Sexual violence, which includes acts ranging from sexual harassment to forcing someone to engage in sexual activities without their consent or against their will, engaging in sexual practices that are unnatural or undesired by the victim, or isolating the victim from fulfilling their sexual needs.
- (d) Economic violence, involving actions that restrict a person (particularly women) from working inside or outside the home to earn money or goods, exploit the victim’s labor, or neglect the economic needs of family members.

In Indonesia, domestic violence remains significantly high. According to data from the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection (KemenPPPA), as reported through the Online Information System for the Protection of Women and Children (Simfoni PPA), 15,921 cases of violence against women were recorded between 2022 and June 2023, involving 16,275 victims. Based on the types of violence, the highest number of cases involved physical violence (7,940 cases), followed by psychological violence (6,576 cases), sexual violence (2,948 cases), and neglect (2,199 cases).

In West Nusa Tenggara (NTB), cases of domestic violence also remain relatively high. According to data published on the NTB Satu Data platform, 147 cases of domestic violence were recorded throughout 2022. One of the regions in NTB with a notably high number of domestic violence cases is West Lombok Regency, which reported 15 cases in the same year. One of the domestic violence cases that occurred in West Lombok Regency involved a husband attacking his wife with a machete, causing severe injuries to her neck and head. This

¹Gabriela Nadia Elena Tarigan (2023). When Love Hurts: The Role of Adult Romantic Attachment as a Predictor of Domestic Violence among Married Women in Jakarta. *The International Journal of Interdisciplinary Social and Community Studies*, 18(2) p.1.

²Georgiana-Virginia Bonea, Bianca Buligescu, Horia Mihai, (2023). Domestic Violence In Romania In The Period 2019-2020. *Journal of Community Positive Practices*, 23 (3), p. 43.

incident took place on October 30, 2023, at the home of the husband's parents in Tempos Village, Gerung District, West Lombok Regency.

The persistently high number of domestic violence cases raises significant public concern. This is particularly striking given that Indonesia has had Law Number 23 of 2004 on the Elimination of Domestic Violence (PKDRT) for nearly two decades. The implementation of this law is increasingly called into question, as domestic violence continues to be an iceberg phenomenon, with numerous cases remaining unreported while the crimes persist unabated.

In cases of domestic violence, both men and women can be victims, but women overwhelmingly dominate the statistics. This is largely due to the cultural and societal values shaped by patriarchal structures. Patriarchy is an ideology developed by men to diminish women's roles in social relations; it symbolizes the principled dominance of men, the authority of the father figure, male control over women's sexuality and fertility, and the depiction of male dominance in institutional and organizational structures. In cultural anthropology, patriarchy initially referred to a social structure where the father (*pater*) or the eldest male (*patriarch*) held absolute authority within the family, reducing women to property and subjects of male ownership within the household.³

Domestic violence persists due to several factors, including the strong influence of patriarchal culture in society, which views women as subordinate to men. There is still a prevailing notion that a wife should not be the primary breadwinner, is better suited to staying home to care for the family, or must be controlled and submissive to her husband. Power dynamics in domestic violence—such as those between husbands and wives, parents and children, or employers and domestic workers—remain a shared societal challenge. These dynamics contribute to the normalization of domestic violence, making it appear acceptable. As a result, when victims report cases to the police, they are often encouraged—or even pressured—to reconcile with the perpetrator. The legal process is frequently halted for reasons such as preserving family harmony, pity for the children, protecting the family's reputation, or the victim's financial and economic dependency on the perpetrator.

The roles and positions of husbands and wives within the Indonesian legal system are governed by written laws, namely the Marriage Law No. 1 of 1974 (UUP) and the Presidential Instruction of the Republic of Indonesia No. 1 of 1991 concerning the Compilation of Islamic Law (KHI). Based on both the UUP and KHI, the relationship patterns between husband and wife follow an unequal and hierarchical structure.⁴ In essence, the division of roles within a husband-and-wife relationship should not cause any issues as long as it does not lead to problems within the relationship itself.

However, it appears that family issues, both present and future, will become increasingly complex due to the rapid changes occurring in society. Many of the problems within families are more rooted in the social and cultural constructs embraced by the community. Therefore, domestic violence needs to receive attention from various parties, not only from the perspective of the victim but also from that of the perpetrator. The factors contributing to domestic violence are not solely economic; power relations also play a significant role. It is for these reasons that this research is being conducted.

³Kramarae dan Treichler. (1991). *Feminist Dictionary*. Boston: The University of Illinois Press. p. 323

⁴Durotun Nafisah, (2008). Politisasi Relasi Suami Istri Telaah KHI Perspektif Gender. *Jurnal Studi Gender dan Anak*, 3(2) p. 2

METHOD

The type of research used in this study is empirical legal research. In this context, law is conceptualized as an empirical phenomenon that can be observed in real life. To address the issues raised in this research, the methods employed include a statutory approach, a conceptual approach, and a sociological approach. This research will be conducted at the UPT PPA in West Lombok, specifically in Dasan Kediri Village, Kediri District, West Lombok Regency. The analysis process will be continuous, starting from data collection in the field and continuing through the analysis stage. After qualitative analysis, the data will be presented in a systematically descriptive qualitative manner.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS

Overview of Domestic Violence Cases in West Lombok Regency

West Lombok Regency is one of the ten regencies in West Nusa Tenggara, specifically located on Lombok Island. Astronomically, West Lombok Regency is situated between 115° 49' 12.04" - 116° 20' 15.62" East Longitude and 8° 24' 33.82" - 8° 55' 19" South Latitude. Geographically, West Lombok Regency is bordered by North Lombok Regency to the north, the Indian Ocean to the south, the Lombok Strait and Mataram City to the west, and Central Lombok Regency to the east.⁵

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Based on the statistical data for the years 2022-2023, the population of West Lombok Regency is as follows:

District		
	Population Projection (people)	
	2022	2023
West Lombok Regency	744309	753641
Sekotong	68268	69124
Lembar	56136	56840
Gerung	92433	93592
Labuapi	81458	82480
Kediri	65498	66319
Kuripan	43131	43672
Narmada	105875	107201
Lingsar	78195	79176
Gunungsari	98001	99229
Batu Layar	55314	56008

⁵BPS Kabupaten Lombok Barat. (2020). *Kabupaten Lombok Barat dalam Angka 2020: Penyediaan Data untuk Perencanaan Pembangunan*, Mataram: BPS, p. 3.

⁶*Ibid*

Source: BPS Statistical Data on the Population of West Lombok Regency for the Years 2022-2023.

(<https://lombokbaratkab.bps.go.id/id/statistics-table/2/ODcjMg==/proyeksi-penduduk.html>)

In West Nusa Tenggara (NTB), domestic violence cases remain relatively high. According to data released on the NTB Satu Data platform, there were 147 cases of domestic violence recorded throughout 2022. West Lombok Regency is one of the regencies in NTB with a notable number of domestic violence cases is West Lombok Regency. In 2022, there were 15 reported cases of domestic violence in West Lombok. As for the victims of domestic violence cases in West Lombok Regency from 2023 to July 2024 the data is as follows:

a. Domestic Violence Cases in 2023

No	Types of Domestic Violence											
	Physical Violence			Psychological Violence			Sexual Violence			Neglect		
	F	C	M	F	C	M	F	C	M	F	C	M
Jumlah	7	6	0	2	3	0	1	1	0	2	0	0
Total	22											

Source: Department of Population Control, Family Planning, Women's Empowerment, and Child Protection of West Lombok Regency, 2023.

Ket: F : Female
C : Children
M : Male

Based on the data above, during the year 2023, there were 22 cases of domestic violence, including cases of physical violence, psychological violence, sexual violence, and neglect within households. In terms of physical violence, the victims consisted of 7 females, 6 children, and 0 males. The breakdown of physical violence victims is as follows: 2 females, 3 children, and 0 males. For sexual violence, the victims included 1 female, 1 child, and 0 males. Regarding neglect within households, the victims consisted of 2 females, 0 children, and 0 males. Thus, the total number of domestic violence victims in 2023 amounted to 22 cases.

b. Domestic Violence Cases in 2024 (January - July)

No	Types of Domestic Violence											
	Physical Violence			Psychological Violence			Sexual Violence			Neglect		
	F	C	M	F	C	M	F	C	M	F	C	M
Jumlah	4	6	0	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total	15											

Source: Department of Population Control, Family Planning, Women's Empowerment, and Child Protection of West Lombok Regency, 2024 (January - July).

Ket: F : Female
C : Children
M : Male

Based on the data provided, the number of victims of physical violence in 2024 (from January to July) consists of 4 female victims of physical violence, 6 children, and no males victims. The victims of psychological violence consisted of 1 female, 3 children, and no males. In cases of sexual violence, there was one female victim, zero children, and zero males. There were no reported cases of neglect within households for females, children, or males. Therefore, the total number of domestic violence cases from January to July 2024 amounted to 15 cases.

Looking at the data above, it is evident that victims of domestic violence are predominantly women and children. Notably, according to the data, there have been no reported cases where men, particularly husbands, have been victims from 2023 until July 2024. As stated in an interview with the Head of the UPT PPA (Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Unit) of West Lombok Regency, domestic violence victims are primarily women, in the role of wives and children.⁷ The causes of domestic violence include husbands engaging in excessive drinking, husbands perpetrating violence against their wives, a lack of mutual understanding between the partners, infidelity, and the husband's failure to provide financial support.

The UPT PPA (Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Unit) of West Lombok is an agency under the DP3AKB (Population Control, Family Planning, Women's Empowerment, and Child Protection Agency) of West Lombok. Its primary function is to assist in addressing cases of violence against women and children. Prevention of such violence is carried out by the DP3AKB. The UPT PPA's role in addressing domestic violence cases includes receiving complaints directly from the community, as well as indirectly through the police or village forums (KPAD), reaching out to victims, accompanying the legal process, facilitating mediation, and providing temporary shelter.

This is strengthened by the results of an interview with the Head of UPT PPA, Mrs. Napaah, who explained:

"UPT PPA only assists in handling cases of violence against children and women in West Lombok Regency. We receive reports both from the community who come directly to us, as well as from the police, village forums, and KPAD. We also conduct victim outreach, during which we assess the condition of the victim before proceeding with an interview. Additionally, we mediate several cases, including domestic violence (KDRT). However, if the victim wishes to pursue the case through legal channels, we will accompany them. The UPT PPA also coordinates with the Head of the DP3AKB (Population Control, Family Planning, Women's Empowerment, and Child Protection Office) for temporary shelter for the victims."⁸

The Relationship Between Power Dynamics and Domestic Violence in West Lombok Regency

Domestic violence remains an ongoing and unresolved issue. Domestic violence is often likened to an iceberg phenomenon, where many cases of domestic violence are either not pursued or disappear altogether. Many domestic violence cases, despite reaching the legal enforcement process, ultimately end in reconciliation. From a criminal law perspective, domestic violence is classified as a relative complaint offense.

A relative complaint offense (*delik aduan relative*) is, in essence, a type of complaint offense (*klacht delict*) that also contains elements typically found in any criminal offense. What distinguishes a complaint offense is its particular feature: the requirement for a complainant. While most offenses require prosecution by the public prosecutor without the need for a clear request from the victim or the affected parties, in the case of a complaint offense, the report from the victim or the party harmed is a fundamental prerequisite for the public prosecutor to initiate legal proceedings. A clear understanding and definition of this concept can be found through the arguments of experts in the field of criminal law, as outlined below:⁹

⁷Hasil wawancara dengan Ibu Hj. Napaah, S.St selaku Kepala UPT PPA Kabupaten Lombok Barat, yang dilaksanakan pada hari Rabu, 21 Agustus 2024 pukul 11.30 WITA.

⁸Hasil wawancara dengan Ibu Hj. Napaah, S.St selaku Kepala UPT PPA Kabupaten Lombok Barat, yang dilaksanakan pada hari Rabu, 21 Agustus 2024 pukul 11.30 WITA.

⁹R. Soesilo, (1993). *Kitab Undang-Undang Hukum Pidana (KUHP)*, Serta KomentarKomentarnya Jelas Pasal Demi Pasal, Politeia, Bogor, p. 87.

1. According to Samidjo, a complaint offense (*klacht delict*) is an offense that is prosecuted only if the interested party or the harmed individual files a complaint. If there is no complaint, the prosecutor will not initiate prosecution.
2. According to R. Soesilo, among many criminal events, almost all crimes can only be prosecuted upon the complaint (request) of the person who is aware of the criminal act. This type of offense is referred to as a complaint offense.

Based on the opinions of the scholars mentioned above, the conclusion that can be drawn is that, for an offense to be considered a complaint offense, in addition to having elements commonly found in any criminal offense, it must also require a complaint from the victim or the affected party in order for the perpetrator to be prosecuted. Despite the clarity of the descriptions provided regarding the character and essence of a complaint offense, there remains a slight gap in their explanations. This gap lies in the aspect of “prosecution.” Specifically, the scholars do not account for the possibility of applying the principle of opportunity in the filing of complaints. Although the right to file a complaint for prosecution lies with the victim, the decision to prosecute or not ultimately depends on the public prosecutor’s discretion. Therefore, the definition of a complaint offense would be more complete if it incorporated the principle of opportunity, as this principle is always considered in the handling of criminal cases. A complaint offense (*klacht delict*) is generally a crime in which prosecution requires a complaint from the victim or the affected party, as long as the public prosecutor’s pursuit of the case does not interfere with public interest.

The reason for the requirement of a complaint, according to Simons as quoted by Satochid, is based on the consideration that, in certain types of crimes, prosecution may harm specific interests (*bijzondere belang*) more easily than it serves the public interest, especially when the case is not prosecuted.

Gerson W. Bawegan distinguishes complaint offenses into two categories: absolute complaint offenses and relative complaint offenses. Meanwhile, Stochid differentiates them into absolute complaint offenses (absolute *klachtdelicten*) and relative complaint offenses (relative *klachtdelicten*). From these two scholars, it can be concluded that complaint offenses are classified into two types, namely absolute complaint offenses (absolute *klachtdelicten*) and relative complaint offenses (relative *klachtdelicten*).

Absolute complaint offenses (absolute *klachtdelicten*) are certain crimes for which prosecution generally requires a complaint. The nature of the complaint in absolute complaint offenses is that it cannot be limited to specific individuals but is directed towards anyone who commits the relevant crime. In this case, it is stated that the complaint cannot be fragmented (*onsplitsbaar*).

An absolute complaint offense involves filing a complaint to prosecute the incident, with the complaint stating: “I request that this incident be prosecuted.” Once the complaint is accepted, the prosecutor’s office has the right to prosecute anyone involved in the crime. A complaint regarding absolute complaint offenses pertains to the act itself, not the perpetrator or other individuals involved. Therefore, the complainant does not have the right to limit the prosecution by requesting that one individual be prosecuted while others are not. Formally, such a request must be rejected because, according to Article 284, paragraph (2), adultery is classified as an absolute complaint offense, meaning the complaint can only address the event itself, not any specific individual involved.

A request is only considered a valid complaint if it expresses the intention to leave the decision of whether to prosecute to the prosecutor. The crimes that fall under absolute complaint offenses, as regulated in the Criminal Code (KUHP), include:

1. Crimes of Morality (*zedenmisdrifven*), as regulated in Article 284 concerning “adultery” (*overspel*), Article 287 concerning “rape” (*verkrachting*), and Article 293 concerning “obscene acts” (*ontucht*), which specify that prosecution requires a complaint.
2. Crimes of Defamation as regulated in Article concerning “insult”. Article 311 concerning “slander” (*latser*), Article 315 concerning “simple defamation” (*oenvoudige belediging*), and Article 316 (defamation against a government official or civil servant performing their duties lawfully, for prosecution based on Article 319, no complaint is needed), with Article 319 specifying that defamation crimes can only be prosecuted after the victim files a complaint, except in Article 316, which deviates from the standard complaint offense rule.
3. Crimes of Breaching Secrets (*schending van heimen*), as regulated in Article 322, which states that prosecution for these crimes requires a complaint, as specified in the last paragraph of the article.
4. Crimes of Threatening (*afdreiging*), as regulated in Article 369, where paragraph (2) specifies that a complaint is required for prosecution.

In addition to the absolute complaint offenses regulated in the Criminal Code (KUHP) and outside the KUHP, there are also provisions regarding complaint offenses, such as domestic violence, which is regulated in Law Number 23 of 2004 concerning the Elimination of Domestic Violence. Articles 51-53 stipulate the criminal acts of domestic violence that are classified as complaint offenses. The criminal acts of domestic violence include:

1. Criminal acts of physical violence committed by a husband against his wife or vice versa, which do not result in illness or hinder the performance of official duties, livelihood, or daily activities. This is regulated in Article 51 in conjunction with Article 44, paragraph (4) of Law Number 23 of 2004 concerning the Elimination of Domestic Violence. According to Article 6 of the Law on the Elimination of Domestic Violence, physical violence is defined as actions that cause pain, illness, or serious injury.
2. Criminal acts of psychological violence committed by a husband against his wife or vice versa, which do not cause illness or hinder the performance of official duties, livelihood, or daily activities. This is regulated in Article 52 in conjunction with Article 45, paragraph (2) of the Law on the Elimination of Domestic Violence. According to Article 7 of the Law, psychological violence is defined as actions that result in fear, loss of self-confidence, loss of ability to act, helplessness, and/or severe psychological effects on a person.
3. Criminal acts of sexual violence, including the coercion of sexual intercourse by a husband against his wife or vice versa. By classifying these forms of domestic violence as complaint offenses, the lawmakers (in the Law on the Elimination of Domestic Violence) have acknowledged the private/personal nature of domestic affairs.

The ratification of the Law on the Elimination of Domestic Violence (UU PKDRT) marks a historic milestone in addressing domestic violence cases. Some of the advantages of this law compared to the Criminal Code (KUHP) are:¹⁰

1. The UU PKDRT has brought domestic violence cases from the private realm of husband and wife into the public domain;
2. Victim witnesses, who have long been overlooked, can now serve as a legal basis when supplemented with other evidence;
3. The scope of domestic violence is not limited to just the husband and wife but is further expanded according to the provisions of Article 2 of the UU PKDRT.

¹⁰Fatahillah A. Syukur. (2011). *Mediasi Perkara KDRT (Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga) Teori dan Praktek di Pengadilan Indonesia*. Bandung: CV.Mandar Maju, Cetakan Ke-1, p. 46.

4. The scope of domestic violence includes not only physical violence but also psychological violence, neglect of household duties, and sexual violence

In addition to the advantages mentioned above, the UU PKDRT also has several other strengths, including: recognition of the victim's rights to protection, rehabilitation, and confidentiality; victims being allowed to be assisted by individuals other than lawyers; and the establishment of minimum criminal sanctions. However, despite the advantages in the UU PKDRT, there are also several weaknesses or legal loopholes within the law that hinder efforts to eliminate domestic violence in Indonesia, including:

1. The UU PKDRT does not have its own procedural law, so law enforcement officials continue to rely on the rigid Criminal Code (KUHP), which is not victim-friendly in cases of domestic violence.;
2. Without its own procedural law, the UU PKDRT does not provide opportunities for alternative dispute resolution methods outside the courtroom (such as mediation), whereas the court may not always be the most appropriate or effective forum for addressing the unique aspects of domestic violence cases;
3. The UU PKDRT allows for the application of the Criminal Code (KUHP) because there is no provision that explicitly repeals the applicability of provisions related to similar criminal offenses (unlike the Law on the Eradication of Corruption Crimes, which includes clauses that close off such possibilities);
4. The criminal penalties under the UU PKDRT are alternative (imprisonment or fines); they should be cumulative (imprisonment and fines) to better serve as a deterrent for perpetrators of domestic violence.;
5. The UU PKDRT does not regulate penalties requiring perpetrators to pay a sum of money to the victim for rehabilitation due to the domestic violence. The fines imposed under this law are paid to the state.¹¹

The enactment of the UU PKDRT has indeed sparked controversy because, on one hand, legislators view domestic violence as a criminal offense, but on the other hand, the majority of the forms of violence remain categorized as complaint offenses, which limits the involvement of others in addressing the issue. The drafters of this law intended to implement a “balance of punishment” for domestic violence on one hand, while simultaneously aiming to preserve the sanctity of the family. As a complaint offense, criminal sanctions are seen as a last resort (*ultimum remedium*); if reconciliation occurs, the case will be withdrawn, and the integrity of the family is preserved.¹²

The complaint offense regarding sexual violence within the household, whether committed by the husband against the wife or vice versa, is a crime that can only be prosecuted if there is a complaint from the party who is the victim of the sexual violence and has been harmed. This type of complaint offense is called an absolute complaint offense (*delik aduan mutlak*), meaning that the complaint is absolutely required for prosecution. In this type of offense, the victim can withdraw the report if a reconciliation has occurred.

In addition, from a psychological perspective, the victim of domestic violence, especially if the victim is a woman who is both a wife and a mother, may ultimately choose to reconcile with the perpetrator or even choose not to report the case at all. Several factors influence this decision, including:¹³

- a. Fear of Parents Regarding the Psychological Impact on Children

¹¹*Ibid*

¹²*Ibid*, p. 48.

¹³Hasil wawancara dengan Ibu Hj. Napaah, S.St selaku Kepala UPT PPA Kabupaten Lombok Barat, yang dilaksanakan pada hari Rabu, 21 Agustus 2024 pukul 11.30 WITA.

Children who witness disharmony within the family will feel the negative and unsafe atmosphere at home. Such conflicts can lead to emotional and psychological disturbances following traumatic events. This factor also causes the victim to be reluctant to take legal action and instead opt to stay together for the sake of the children's well-being.

b. Social Influence

The societal view of widows often compels domestic violence victims to maintain an unhealthy marriage. Divorce is still perceived as shameful in many communities, as it reflects failure in family life. Additionally, the negative perception from society can make the victim feel insecure or even depressed, leading them to blame themselves for the abuse they have experienced.

c. Lack of Trust in the Legal Process

Many victims do not trust the legal process in Indonesia. There is a prevailing stigma that perpetrators are ultimately freed from legal consequences after reconciliation, due to a lack of understanding about the legal proceedings surrounding domestic violence cases in the country.

d. Threats

Victims may be unwilling to report due to threats made by the perpetrator, such as attempts to kill or injure the victim or other family members, or threats to abduct children, among others.

e. Shame and Lack of Knowledge About Domestic Violence

Many victims view domestic violence as a private or domestic issue, considering it a family disgrace if made public. Furthermore, victims who lack knowledge about legal protection may be reluctant to report the abuse. As mentioned earlier, domestic violence cases are often likened to an iceberg, where only a small portion is visible, with many more cases remaining hidden because they are considered a family shame and treated as a private matter.

f. Considered Normal

Domestic violence in some communities is still seen as a normal part of the relationship, often viewed as a form of discipline or education by the husband toward the wife. This belief stems from the idea that the husband is the head of the family and has the right to control the family members.

g. Economic Dependence

Female victims who are economically dependent on the perpetrator often fear reporting domestic violence. They believe they lack the skills or financial resources to support themselves if they separate from the perpetrator. While many wives eventually become financially independent through employment, this can also trigger conflict within the household, as husbands may perceive their wives as capable of working and earning income, leading them to neglect their responsibility to provide for the family. Meanwhile, wives may demand financial support from their husbands, further escalating the conflict.

Based on data obtained from the Population Control, Family Planning, Women Empowerment, and Child Protection Office of West Lombok Regency from 2023 to July 2024, it is evident that the victims of domestic violence are predominantly women (wives) and children.

In society, the concept of gender is widely recognized. As a socio-cultural concept, discussions about gender are inherently dynamic, as they take into account the evolving psycho-social variables present in society. Therefore, as articulated by Nassarudin Umar in different terms, the concept of gender refers to the division of roles between men and women, not based on normative understandings or biological categories, but rather on qualities and skills shaped by social conventions.¹⁴ The concept of gender is utilized to identify differences between men and

¹⁴Umar, Nazarudin. (1999). *Argumen Kesetaraan Gender Perspektif Alquran*, Jakarta: Paramadina, p. 32.

women from a socio-cultural or non-biological perspective. More specifically, gender refers to societal perceptions regarding the differences in functions, roles, and responsibilities between men and women as a result of socio-cultural constructions. These constructions emerge and are agreed upon by society through lengthy processes, evolving over time, across locations, and even among social classes in line with ongoing developments. In contrast, sex is defined as a biological categorization of gender that is immutable, as it is considered a natural given.

In a household, gender roles are essential, with husbands and wives each having their respective duties. Gender roles are subject to change, adapting to the dynamic shifts in societal norms. For instance, in traditional societies, the division of labor was determined by gender. Men's work aligned with their perceived capacity as males, conceptualized as having stronger muscles, courage, and teamwork abilities. Conversely, women's work was tailored to the perception of them as weaker beings, associated with lower risk, slower pace, and similar attributes. In traditional societies, men consistently performed tasks deemed masculine, such as woodworking, shipbuilding, stonemasonry, metalworking, mining, and leather tanning. Women, on the other hand, were more engaged in tasks considered feminine, such as gathering firewood, preparing and providing food and beverages, washing, fetching water, and cooking.¹⁵

However, as a result of population growth and mobility, urbanization, and the industrial revolution—which have triggered various social changes—the roles and positions of men and women have also evolved. In the context of gender roles, these shifts in the structure of male and female roles can be observed through divisions of labor and status, reflected in the distribution of wealth, decision-making, income, power, and prestige. For instance, women's roles and positions have traditionally been associated with the domestic sphere, focusing on household matters, while men have been linked to the public or external domain. Consequently, women have often been placed in roles and positions of minority status, deemed to have lower status than men. This structural dynamic poses challenges for women, as those seeking to participate in the public sphere still bear responsibilities in the domestic sphere, resulting in a “double burden.” Women, in this context, are unable to escape these dual roles because they are embedded in widely held cultural perceptions. Patriarchal cultural control acts as a significant barrier to changes in gender roles.¹⁶

Power relations based on differing statuses between men and women serve as a fundamental reference point. In both traditional and modern societies, this condition persists, albeit in different contexts. Productive activities are often perceived as the domain of men, while reproductive responsibilities are assigned to women. Men are conceptualized as handling public affairs, while women are relegated to domestic matters. This dynamic emphasizes a patriarchal pattern of gender relations, where any shift in this relational pattern often results in disharmony, and in some cases, even divorce. This aligns with Lindsey's perspective on the impact of changing gender dynamics¹⁷ that the structural-functional theory, ideologically, has been utilized to legitimize the perpetuation of male dominance and gender stratification within the family in particular and society at large. Several factors influencing power relations in domestic violence include:

1. Gender Bias Perceptions

Several factors can influence the power dynamics of domestic violence perpetrators, the first being gender-biased perceptions. These biases are evident in the allocation of roles, rights, responsibilities, and expectations placed upon men and women within society. If an individual possesses an awareness of gender equality, there will be no assumption that

¹⁵Sanderson, Stephen K. (2003). *Sosiologi Makro, Sebuah Pendekatan Terhadap Realitas Sosial*, Jakarta:Rajawali Press, p. 55.

¹⁶Lindsey, Linda L. (1990) *Gender Role: a Sociological Perspective*, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, p. 89.

¹⁷Marzuki, M. (2007). Kajian tentang teori-teori gender. *Jurnal Civics: Media Kajian Kewarganegaraan*, p. 4

men hold higher positions and roles than women, nor the notion that men have control or dominance over women.

2. Authority of Power

Patriarchy is a social system that places men as the primary holders of power, dominating roles in political leadership, moral authority, social rights, and property ownership. In the family, for example, the father or husband holds authority over his wife, children, and property. The authority held by a father or head of household is the root of various forms of violence directed at women or wives. Based on this authority, men possess privileges, leading them to believe they have the right to exploit women's bodies. Authority is a specific form of power because it demonstrates that power can be accepted and legitimized. In a government, authority manifests and functions as governance. Therefore, authority can be described as institutionalized power. Authority indirectly indicates the presence of superordination and subordination, where those in positions of authority can control subordinates. The patriarchal culture, still highly revered in Indonesian society, indirectly creates a mindset among female victims to always be submissive, yielding, prioritizing the needs of others, and maintaining dependence on their husbands. Additionally, there is the belief that a good mother is one who serves as a companion and is willing to sacrifice for her husband.

Gender power relations can lead to domestic violence, which disproportionately harms the weaker party, whose position is perceived as lower than the other. The power dynamics between husband and wife often result in higher levels of conflict, control, and violence directed at the wife.¹⁸ The husband, wielding his power, tends to exert pressure on those within the household, reinforcing his dominance and control.¹⁹ As a result, the power dynamics between husband and wife have a negative impact, particularly on the wife. A husband who feels empowered often leads to a lack of respect and a domineering attitude towards his wife, treating her unjustly and without regard for her dignity.²⁰ Istri dianggap sebagai orang yang memenuhi keinginan suami sehingga istri yang bersalah dan tidak patuh pada suami berhak untuk dipukul oleh suami karena kodratnya istri harus mematuhi suami. Namun, istri yang mendapatkan porsi kekuasaan paling kecil rentan menjadi korban kekerasan dalam kehidupan rumah tangga (KDRT). Selain istri, korban yang paling rentan kaitannya dengan relasi kuasa dalam kasus kekerasan dalam rumah tangga ini adalah anak-anak.

CONCLUSION

The cases of domestic violence that occurred in West Lombok Regency from 2023 to July 2024 amounted to 37 cases. These cases were predominantly women victims, in the role of wives, as well as children. The types of violence involved include physical violence, psychological violence, sexual violence, and neglect within the household. The causes of these incidents are attributed to factors such as husbands being intoxicated, husbands perpetrating violence against their wives, a lack of mutual understanding between partners, infidelity, and the husband's failure to provide financial support.

In the cases of domestic violence in West Lombok Regency, the victims are mostly women, playing the role of wives, and children. In relation to power dynamics, husbands tend to exhibit high levels of conflict, control, and violence against their wives. Husbands, with their authority,

¹⁸Antai, D. (2011). *Controlling behavior; power relations within intimate relationships and intimate partner physical and sexual violence against women in Nigeria*. BMC Public Health, 11(1), 1–11. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2458-11-511>.

¹⁹Manumpahi, E., Goni, S., & Pongoh, H. W. (2016). Kajian kekerasan dalam rumah tangga terhadap psikologi anak di Desa Soakonora Kecamatan Jailolo Kabupaten Halmahera Barat. *EJournal Acta Diurna*, 5(1).

²⁰Ciciek, F. (2005). *Jangan ada lagi kekerasan: Ikhtiar mengatasi kekerasan dalam rumah tangga, belajar dari kehidupan Rasulullah SAW*. Jakarta: Gramedia Pustaka Utama: LKAJ: Asia Foundation

exert pressure on those within their household, creating power relations that have negative impacts on both the wives and children. Furthermore, the patriarchal system grants husbands the right to hold authority in the household, making decisions on all matters. At times, the power held by the husband is used to justify oppressive behavior. Domestic violence is not confined to those facing economic hardship; even individuals with sufficient financial means and high social status can perpetrate domestic violence against their wives. This is because they feel entitled to do so, based on the belief that a husband is the head of the household. A belief that reinforced by the imbalance in social relations and cultural dominance. Culturally, men are clearly advantaged by the patriarchal system, while women's social standing is lower due to their roles being confined to the domestic sphere. Therefore, it is crucial to empower women, enabling them to become financially independent. This would help reduce their vulnerability to domestic violence and promote greater gender equality.

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Wawancara dengan Ibu Hj. Napaah, S.St selaku Kepala UPT PPA Kabupaten Lombok Barat, yang dilaksanakan pada hari Rabu, 21 Agustus 2024 pukul 11.30 WITA.