



# Factors Affecting Delays in Reporting Cases of Violence Against Women and Children in Semarang: A Mixed Method Study

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**Abstract.** Violence against women and children (KTPA) is a serious problem that can have long-term impacts on the physical and psychological health of women and children. In Semarang City, there were 74 cases, 72 of which were female victims. Delays in case reporting can cause difficulties in finding evidence during examination because biological evidence will be lost over time. The aim of this research is to identify factors that influence delays in reporting cases of violence against women and children in Semarang City. This research was conducted using mixed-method embedded study approach on KTPA victims in Semarang City who were listed in the Seruni Integrated Service Center (PPT Seruni) data in 2022. In-depth interviews were conducted to support the discussion. Research informants were included if they were female, aged less than 18 years with a reporting period of more than 24 hours since the incident. There were 9 people who were determined using purposive sampling. Data collection was carried out using questionnaires followed by in-depth interviews to enrich the discussion. Quantitative data is analyzed through verification, tabulation and data percentage stages. The results of this research show that 4 out of 6 perpetrators of violence are internal victims. The majority of victims reported KTPA actions through DPPA Semarang. Several factors that influence the delay in reporting cases of violence against women and children in Semarang City are internal factors in the form of personal and family factors, as well as external factors in the form of other people and ongoing legal process.

Keywords: Violence, Women, Children, Delays In Reporting Case, Violence Against Women And Children.

## 1. Introduction

Violence against women and children (KTPA) is a problem that needs to be resolved. Indonesian Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection noted that from January 1 to March 16 2021, there were 426 cases of sexual violence out of a total of 1,008

cases of violence against women and children [1] In Semarang, Semarang City Violence Data found 74 cases, of which 72 were woman. The largest distribution of cases was in North Semarang District with 12 cases, 7 of which were domestic violence (KDRT) and 4 cases of violence against children (KTA) [2].

Acts of violence are often committed in private areas or mostly at home, so that within the family it is an act that is very difficult to detect and report, let alone prevent. This act of violence is often revealed when the victim has fallen and is in a serious condition. When the victim suffers minor physical injuries, or psychological injuries that are not visible, violent incidents often escape the observation of the surrounding environment so that there is no effort to stop or prevent them from continuing [3].

Delays in reporting cases can cause difficulties in finding evidence during examination because biological evidence will be lost over time [4]. Article 7 of the Law on Domestic Violence (PKDRT) states: "Psychological violence is an act that results in fear, loss of self-confidence, loss of ability to act, feeling helplessness, and/or severe psychological suffering for a person." This article emphasizes the consequences of actions, not the actions themselves. Usually, the victims are late in reporting so that the scars from the violence on the victim's body have disappeared. This is resulting the legal process not running as it should [5].

Factors that influence delays in reporting KTPA cases can be divided into internal factors and external factors. Internal factors are things that come from the victim and family, while external factors are factors outside of the victim such as other people and the ongoing legal process [6].

Based on the National Commission on Violence Against Women's dynamics survey, during the Covid-19 pandemic, the number of cases decreased due to victims being close to the perpetrators during the pandemic, victims tending to complain to their families or remain silent, technological literacy issues, and complaint service models that are not ready for pandemic conditions.<sup>4</sup> It is feared that the violence against women and children cases during the Covid-19 pandemic has increased but is not being reported. Complaint and handling services that do not run well make it difficult for victims to access services in their area. A community culture that is afraid to report is also a cause, especially if the perpetrator of the violence is someone close to them or family.<sup>3</sup>

Based on the above, researchers are interested in raising this topic, with the research aim of identifying the determinant factors for delays in reporting cases of violence against women and children in Semarang.

## 2. Methods

This research has been declared ethically feasible based on the Ethical Eligibility Decree of the Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Muhammadiyah Semarang, in 18 October 2022 (No.072/EC/KEPK-FK/UNIMUS/2022). This research is a mixed-method embedded study approach with quantitative methods and in-depth interviews were conducted to support the discussion. The data used is primary data, in the form of reports of domestic violence cases reported at PPT Seruni Semarang in January - December 2022 which were taken using a purposive sampling technique. The inclusion criteria for this study were female victims aged less than 18 with KTPA cases reported at the PPT Seruni, cases reported more than 24 hours after the incident, and adults at the time of the research. The interview criteria in this study were respondents who were mentally stable, had their willingness confirmed by PPT Seruni, and signed informed consent. The results of the interviews were triangulated with PPT Seruni officers.

Data obtained from PPT SERUNI Semarang city was analyzed descriptively to determine the prevalence of each variable and see the most dominant factors influencing the incidence of KTPA.

## 3. Results

This research was conducted at PPT Seruni Semarang in December 2022. The characteristics of respondents obtained from the research results include the identity of the victim, gender, age, relationship between the victim and the perpetrator and the form of violence experienced. The number of respondents who met the criteria was 9 respondents.

**Table 1.** Characteristics of Study Participants

No	Victim's Age (years old)	Relationship actor with the victim	Form of Violence		
			Physical	Sexual	Psychological
1	14	Uncle		V	V
2	14	caretaker of the orphanage		V	
3	15	Mate/Boyfriend		V	V
4	17	Stepfather		V	V
5	17	Mate/Boyfriend	V	V	V
6	16	Mate/Boyfriend		V	
7	17	Mate/Boyfriend		V	V
8	15	Uncle		V	V
9	15	stepfather		V	

The results of the data obtained from filling out the respondent's questionnaire show that forms of violence include physical, sexual and psychological violence. Of the total of 9 respondents, it was found that all of them had experienced acts of sexual violence (100%),

6 of the 9 victims had experienced acts of psychological violence (67%) and 1 victim had experienced physical, sexual and psychological acts (33%).

Factors that influence delays in reporting the results of data collection are internal and external factors. The internal factors that cause delays in reporting KTPA cases are victim factors including things about the victim such as feelings of shame, confusion and anxiety within the victim. The results obtained were that all respondents felt that these factors were the trigger for delays in reporting.

Family factors are also one of the causes of late reporting, not only because the perpetrator of violence comes from within the family environment but also because there is no support from the family to help or the victim feels that his family does not pay enough attention to the victim's condition.

Perpetrators of internal violence include the immediate family and external factors that come from the victim's surroundings or people they don't know. From the results of sampling data (table 2), it was found that 4 of the total respondents (44.4%) experienced acts of violence whose perpetrators came from the family environment.

External factors are causes that originate from outside the victim who are related to the agency handling the case of violence against women and children. Factors related to the causes of late reporting are the reporting system and ongoing legal process including the police, educational institutions, women's and children's empowerment services and hospitals that handle cases of violence against women and children.

**Table 2.** Perpetrators of Violence Against Women and Children (Internal/External Victims)

Variable	Internal Perpetrator	External Perpetrator	Total
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Perpetrator of violence	4 (44,4)	5 (55,6)	9 (100)

From in-depth interviews with the nine victims which were reinforced by triangulation with officers, the results showed that all the perpetrators who committed the violence were people they had previously known and four of them were even family members (internal parties). 5 people admitted to having a previous history of sexual violence.

Four victims admitted to putting up resistance, while 2 people admitted to being unconscious when the violence occurred. All perpetrators threatened victims to report, so that all victims felt afraid and embarrassed when reporting or telling stories. Of the nine victims, only three people had the desire to report, but did not know where to report the acts of violence they received. One of the victims even admitted that his family members did not support reporting. All case reporting is done by other people, either family or counselling teachers, not by the victim himself.

The victims admitted that there was still evidence of violence that had been left behind at the time of reporting, but due to fear, closeness and ignorance of the act of sexual violence, case reporting was carried out more than 24 hours after the incident. Some victims admitted that they were afraid to report it because they were afraid that no one would believe the victim's confession, and because they were afraid of damaging the perpetrator's household (the victim's family). Closeness factors such as romantic relationships and the problem of ignorance about acts of violence are also the causes of some delays in reporting cases of violence.

**Table 3.** Reporting Place of Violence Against Women and Children

Reporting Place	Number of Cases	Total
	n (%)	n (%)
Police	2 (22,2)	9 (100)
Educational Institution	1 (11,1)	
Department of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection	6 (66,67)	

All cases did not proceed to trial either due to mediation or withdrawal of reports or lack of evidence. After reporting, the victim admitted that he did not feel safe from the perpetrator, unless there was a peace agreement between the two parties.

#### 4. Discussion

In this research, the results showed that 4 out of 5 perpetrators of violence against women and children were people closest to the victim. In line with the research results of Suwandi et al. (2019) which states that sexual violence is carried out by people who are related to the victim by blood, or who are part of the victim's nuclear family, including; Grandparents, biological fathers, siblings and uncles or other people close to the victim, including people who live together with the victim even though they are not related by blood, namely stepfathers, stepbrothers and distant relatives who live in the family [7].

Other research says that peers are the second determining factor that influences children to commit sexual violence against other children. Forms of sexual violence that are often carried out by peers are showing pornographic images, touching/touching children's sensitive organs, and having sexual relations with children. The most common way that peers use to get victims is by deceiving or persuading, such as wanting to buy something to eat/buy. toys, given money, invited to the garden to look for birds/mushrooms and forced with certain threats [8].

The results of the research show that the most frequent places for reporting victims are women and children empowerment services through the assistance of other parties, including family, neighbors and schools. Victims of sexual violence need assistance from various parties. Survivors of sexual violence need support from professional services

because professional services are more flexible in responding to and helping victims [9]. Institutions that protect victims of sexual violence understand how victims feel, so they need to report to that institution. On the other hand, social and economic factors influence healing support for survivors of sexual violence. Sexual violence can cause stigma from society, health service providers, and families, including intimate partners [10] [11]. Victims who do not have access to institutions that protect them find it difficult to obtain rehabilitation, especially from a psychological perspective.

The social influence in the occurrence of domestic violence is quite large but does not influence the victim's decision to report the violence they receive to the police. This can be motivated by several stigmas that exist in society. Victims worry about rejection or negative images given by society towards victims and perpetrators [12]. Apart from that, society still considers divorce to be a shameful thing because it reflects failure in building a household [13]. The existence of negative stereotypes from society makes victims of domestic violence feel lack of self-confidence, depression, and tend to blame themselves as the party who deserved violence from the perpetrator [14].

The cultural concept of male dominance (patriarchy) in all aspects of life has been in effect since ancient times and is still developing today. As a result, many women still experience subordination, marginalization, harassment, discrimination, exploitation, etc. Violent behavior is often associated as a way for men to solve problems [15]. Violence is carried out as a form of intimidation against women so that they can do what their partners want. Patriarchal culture also has an impact in the form of a mindset on women to always be submissive, give in, put other people's interests first, maintain their dependence on men, and always prioritize their role as companions to their husbands and caretakers of their children [16].

In research conducted by Islawati and Paramastri (2015) regarding early prevention of sexual violence in children, it was found that family parenting patterns are very necessary in preventing sexual violence in children. Prevention of sexual violence against children must start as early as possible from the family environment. At the earliest stage, families must provide sexual education for children regarding the differences between male and female sex. Apart from education about gender and its differences, some parents also have to equip their children about what they can and cannot do. Some parents who have equipped their children to behave assertively regarding the issue of sexual violence, also teach them to show a response of dislike if someone of the opposite sex kisses them, or touches inappropriate places. However, only a small number of parents have taught assertiveness to their sons and daughters. Apart from that, different boundaries regarding sexual violence held by each individual/family also lead to different education [17].

This research has limitations in the small number of data and respondents, as well as incomplete data quality, which hampers the variable classification process. Sensitive issues and the willingness of victims to be interviewed are also obstacles for researchers to conduct in-depth interviews with several survivors [18].

## 5. Conclusion

Based on the results above, it can be concluded that several factors influence the delay in reporting cases of violence against women and children in Semarang, are internal factors in the form of personal and family factors, as well as external factors in the form of other people and ongoing legal process. Research with a larger sample size and better research methods is needed to explore barriers to reporting violence against women and children.

## Authors' Contributions

NH and ATA conceptualized the study. S and CZ collected the data, ATA, BT and NH developed the analysis method, implemented the data analysis, and drafted the manuscript. ATA and CZ revised the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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