

LEGAL EDUCATION AS A FOUNDATION FOR THE PREVENTION OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Mimin Mintarsih^{1*}, Farhana¹

¹ Faculty of Law, Universitas Islam Jakarta, Indonesia
Jl. Balai Rakyat No.37 4, RT.8/RW.10, Utan Kayu Utara, Kec. Matraman, Kota Jakarta Timur, Daerah
Khusus Ibukota Jakarta 13120 - Indonesia

*Corresponding Author: miensh66@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Sexual violence has become a global issue that threatens human dignity and fundamental rights. The increasing number of sexual violence cases demonstrates that legal protection alone is insufficient without preventive efforts through legal education. This study aims to analyze the role of legal education as a fundamental instrument in preventing sexual violence within society. The research method employed is normative juridical research using statutory, conceptual, and sociological approaches. The findings indicate that legal education contributes significantly to increasing legal awareness, understanding victims' rights, strengthening preventive culture, and encouraging community participation in reporting sexual violence cases. Legal education also serves as a strategic instrument in shaping societal perspectives regarding gender equality, human rights, and respect for bodily autonomy. Therefore, strengthening legal literacy through formal education, community outreach, and digital campaigns is essential in establishing a society that is more responsive and preventive toward sexual violence.

Keywords: *Legal Education, Prevention, Sexual Violence, Legal Awareness, Human*

INTRODUCTION

Sexual violence is a form of human rights violation that has serious consequences for victims, affecting them physically, psychologically, socially, and economically. This phenomenon occurs not only in private settings, but also within educational institutions, workplaces, public spaces, and digital media. These conditions demonstrate that sexual violence has become a multidimensional issue requiring comprehensive intervention and prevention efforts.

According to data from the National Commission on Violence Against Women, cases of sexual violence in Indonesia continue to increase each year, indicating that the systems of prevention and legal protection for victims remain inadequate. The Commission states that the high prevalence of sexual violence is influenced by patriarchal culture, low public legal awareness, and limited education regarding victims' rights and the boundaries of sexually abusive behavior that violates the law (Komnas Perempuan, 2024).

Normatively, Indonesia has established various legal instruments to address sexual violence, one of which is Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning Sexual Violence Crimes. This law provides a more comprehensive framework for victim protection, case handling, recovery, and the prevention of

sexual violence offenses. Nevertheless, the existence of legal regulations alone cannot be fully effective without strengthening public legal awareness through legal education.

Legal education plays a strategic role in shaping a society's legal culture. According to Soerjono Soekanto, public legal awareness is one of the primary factors determining the effectiveness of law enforcement, because the law cannot function optimally without public understanding of and compliance with legal norms (Soekanto, 2014). In the context of sexual violence, legal education is essential to ensure that society understands the various forms of sexual violence, reporting mechanisms, victims' rights, and the legal consequences faced by perpetrators.

Furthermore, legal education serves as a preventive instrument in promoting gender equality perspectives and respect for human rights. Satjipto Rahardjo argued that the law must function as a means of human liberation and the protection of humanitarian values (Rahardjo, 2009). Therefore, legal education does not merely provide normative legal knowledge, but also fosters moral and social awareness aimed at preventing sexual violence.

Based on the foregoing discussion, this research is important to analyze how legal education can serve as a fundamental foundation in efforts to prevent sexual violence within society.

METHOD

This study employs a normative legal research method using the statutory approach, conceptual approach, and sociological approach. The statutory approach is conducted by examining various regulations related to sexual violence and victim protection, particularly Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning Sexual Violence Crimes.

The legal materials used in this study consist of primary, secondary, and tertiary legal sources. Primary legal materials include statutory regulations, while secondary legal materials consist of books, scholarly journals, and previous research related to legal education and the prevention of sexual violence. Data collection is carried out through library research. The data are analyzed using a descriptive-qualitative method by interpreting legal norms and relating them to the social phenomena developing within society.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Legal Education as an Effort to Enhance Public Legal Awareness

Legal awareness is an essential element in creating compliance with the law. The low level of public understanding regarding the various forms of sexual violence often causes such acts to be perceived as ordinary behavior or merely private matters. In fact, sexual violence constitutes a criminal offense and a violation of human rights.

According to Lawrence M. Friedman, the legal system consists of legal structure, legal substance, and legal culture. The legal culture of society greatly determines the effectiveness of law implementation in social life (Friedman, 2001). Therefore, legal education serves as an important instrument in shaping a legal culture that is responsive to sexual violence.

Legal education may be carried out through educational institutions, community outreach programs, social media, seminars, and public campaigns. Through legal education, society can gain an understanding of various forms of sexual violence, such as sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, forced sexual relations, and online gender-based violence. Such understanding is crucial in preventing the normalization of sexual violence in everyday life.

2. The Role of Legal Education in the Protection of Victims of Sexual Violence

Victims of sexual violence often face obstacles in reporting the crimes they experience due to social stigma, fear, and a lack of understanding regarding their rights. Under such circumstances, legal education functions to provide victims with the understanding that the state guarantees legal protection for victims of sexual violence.

Article 66 of Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning Sexual Violence Crimes stipulates that victims are entitled to receive handling, protection, and recovery. This provision reflects the strengthening of a legal paradigm that is more victim-oriented. However, its implementation requires extensive public dissemination so that society becomes aware of these rights.

According to Barda Nawawi Arief, crime prevention policies should not only rely on penal measures, but also on non-penal approaches such as education and legal counseling (Arief, 2010). Therefore, legal education constitutes an important component of criminal policy in preventing sexual violence from an early stage.

3. Legal Education and the Prevention of Sexual Violence in Educational Environments

Educational institutions are among the environments most vulnerable to sexual violence. Therefore, legal education needs to be integrated into the education system as a preventive measure. Legal education concerning bodily autonomy, consent, gender equality, and human rights should be introduced from an early age.

Paulo Freire argued that education must serve as a means of liberating individuals from injustice and social oppression (Freire, 2005). In the context of sexual violence, legal education can shape students' character by fostering critical awareness of behaviors that violate the rights of others.

Furthermore, universities also bear the responsibility of creating a safe academic environment through anti-sexual violence policies and the establishment of task forces for the

prevention and handling of sexual violence. Continuous legal education will strengthen an academic culture that respects human dignity.

4. Challenges in the Implementation of Legal Education

Although legal education plays an important role in preventing sexual violence, its implementation continues to face various challenges. One of the major obstacles is the persistence of patriarchal culture within society, which often leads to victim blaming. In addition, limited access to legal education in remote areas also hinders the dissemination of legal information.

The development of digital technology has also created new challenges in the form of technology-facilitated or electronic-based sexual violence. Therefore, legal education must adapt to contemporary developments by utilizing digital media as a platform for legal awareness campaigns and for improving public digital literacy.

CONCLUSION

Legal education plays a strategic role as a fundamental foundation in the prevention of sexual violence. Through legal education, society can develop a better understanding of the various forms of sexual violence, the rights of victims, and the legal consequences faced by perpetrators. Legal education also functions to enhance public legal awareness, foster a culture of respect for human rights, and encourage community participation in efforts to prevent sexual violence.

The strengthening of legal education must be carried out continuously through educational institutions, community outreach programs, digital media, and cross-sector collaboration among the government, educational institutions, and civil society. In this way, the prevention of sexual violence can be implemented more effectively and equitably.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The authors would like to express their sincere gratitude to all parties who have provided support in the preparation of this scientific article, particularly educational institutions, academic colleagues, and various literature sources that contributed to the research on legal education and the prevention of sexual violence.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS OR APPENDICES

The supplementary materials included in this article consist of relevant legal documents, supporting statistical data, and references related to legal education and the prevention of sexual violence. Any figures, tables, or images used in this study are presented in accordance with the

guidelines and formatting requirements established by the Proceedings of the International Joint Seminar. All sourced materials have been properly cited to ensure academic integrity and compliance with copyright standards.

This study did not employ specialized analytical software. The research was conducted using a qualitative normative legal approach through library research, analysis of statutory regulations, scholarly journals, books, and other relevant legal references.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest in the research and writing of this article.

REFERENCES

- Arief, Barda Nawawi. 2010. *Bunga Rampai Kebijakan Hukum Pidana*. Jakarta: Kencana.
- Freire, Paulo. 2005. *Pendidikan Kaum Tertindas*. Jakarta: LP3ES.
- Friedman, Lawrence M. 2001. *American Law: An Introduction*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company.
- Komisi Nasional Anti Kekerasan terhadap Perempuan. 2024. *Catatan Tahunan Kekerasan terhadap Perempuan Tahun 2024*. Jakarta: Komnas Perempuan.
- Rahardjo, Satjipto. 2009. *Hukum Progresif: Sebuah Sintesa Hukum Indonesia*. Yogyakarta: Genta Publishing.
- Soekanto, Soerjono. 2014. *Faktor-Faktor yang Mempengaruhi Penegakan Hukum*. Jakarta: Rajawali Pers.
- Undang-Undang Nomor 12 Tahun 2022 tentang Tindak Pidana Kekerasan Seksual.