

Prevalence of Sexual Harassment among Adolescents in the Banten Province



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ABSTRACT: Prevention and elimination of sexual harassment against teenagers is the Sustainable Development Goals agenda. Sexual harassment in adolescents occurs between peers. Based on studies that have been conducted, there is still little research on the prevalence of sexual harassment between peers in adolescents. This study aims to examine the prevalence of peer sexual harassment in adolescents. This research uses a quantitative approach with a cross-sectional survey approach. The sample was determined using convenience sampling techniques. The sample involved was 60 teenage high school students. The results of the research were that students had been victims, perpetrators, and witnesses of sexual harassment. As victims, the sexual harassment that many students experience is in the form of touching someone's private body. Meanwhile, as perpetrators, students most often commit sexual harassment in the form of touching other people's private organs without consent. Meanwhile, as witnesses, students often see sexual harassment in the form of hearing other people referred to as gays, sissies, lesbians, and the like.

KEYWORDS: Peer sexual harassment, perpetrators of sexual harassment, Sexual harassment, sexual violence, Victims of sexual harassment, witnesses of sexual harassment

INTRODUCTION

Eliminating all forms of violence against children and adolescents is one of the Sustainable Development Goals agenda (UN General Assembly, 2015). The government specifically requires it to report on its efforts to end sexual violence under Goal 5 (on gender equality) and Goal 16 (on peace and justice). Indonesia is a board member of the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children (including sexual harassment/violence). Based on this program, Indonesia needs to be involved in preventing and alleviating the problem of sexual violence against children.

Nevertheless, sexual violence among teenagers in Indonesia is in the category of concern. Research conducted by Bhatla et al. (2015) 1,738 teenagers in Indonesia showed high levels of sexual harassment. Research by Bhatla et al (2015) reported that male teenagers were the most victims (29%) compared to female teenagers (21%). 7% of girls and 21% of boys in the last six months have experienced at least one act of sexual violence. This research also found that the perpetrators of sexual harassment were more often committed by boys. With examples of behavior showing photos of acts of sexual violence and making sexist comments. This means that sexual violence often occurs among peers.

The research results of Bhatla et al, (2015) cannot be generalized to all regions in Indonesia because Bhatla only conducted studies in urban areas, namely two districts in Jakarta Province. The limitations of Bhatla et al's (2015) research occur due to the difficulty of identifying victims of sexual violence. Victims of sexual violence rarely disclose their incidents and rarely seek support (Rumble et al, 2020). So, data regarding the prevalence of sexual violence is difficult to reveal.

The results of a systematic literature review conducted by Rumble et al., (2020) found that there are still few studies or research regarding sexual violence or sexual harassment in Indonesia. Rumble et al., (2020) only found 15 relevant studies. There is no research regarding the prevalence of sexual violence in adolescents. Thus, this research attempts to cover this gap. This study aims to examine the prevalence of adolescent peer violence or peer sexual harassment among adolescents.

METHOD

This research uses a quantitative approach with survey methods. According to Creswell (2019), surveys are used to identify the beliefs and attitudes of individuals or groups. In this study, a survey was used to identify the prevalence of peer sexual violence among adolescents in Banten Province. The survey in this study used a cross-sectional design. A cross-sectional design identifies the prevalence of adolescent sexual violence at a specific point in time. The population in this study was teenagers. The target population or sampling frame in this research is high school students in the Banten Province area. The sampling technique uses

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convenience sampling, namely the sampling technique is based on the individual's willingness to become a research sample (Creswell, 2019; Houser, 2020). The number of samples involved was 60 high school students.

Data was collected using a web-based questionnaire or online survey. The research sample was asked to fill out an electronic questionnaire or use a Google form. The questionnaire uses the Peer Sexual Harassment Scale—Child (PSH-C) instrument which can identify victims, perpetrators and peer sexual violence (Valik et al., 2022). The results of filling out the questionnaire then go through the response identification and response bias stages (Criswell, 2019). Response identification is carried out to see the suitability of respondents with the desired sample criteria. There were several respondents who did not meet the criteria and were therefore eliminated. Identification of response bias is carried out to identify the suitability of the answer to the question. At the response bias identification stage, several answers were found to be skewed so that the respondents concerned were not included in the data analysis. Data analysis uses descriptive analysis. The data analysis stages include calculating descriptive statistics, developing a demographic profile, and analyzing the prevalence of sexual violence.

RESULTS

This research explores students' experiences of being victims, perpetrators, and witnesses of peer sexual harassment. The survey results are presented in the form of behavior or types of sexual harassment. Data analysis produces descriptive data on each type of violence that has been received, committed, or witnessed. The following are the types of peer sexual harassment that students have experienced as victims:

Table 1. Prevalence of Victims of Sexual Violence

No	Types of sexual harassment	Never	Once	A Few Times	Many Times
1	Touching private organs without consent	33	19	5	3
2	Kissed	46	7	4	3
3	Trying to kiss	44	10	3	3
4	Referred to as gay, sissy, lesbian, and the like	50	6	3	1
5	Being called a bitch or a whore	49	5	4	2
6	Certain body parts (buttocks, genitals, breasts) are used as jokes	38	15	6	1
7	Show images or messages related to nudity and sex	45	8	5	1
8	Being sent images or messages related to nudity or sex	46	8	5	1

Based on Table 1, it is known that all students have been victims of sexual harassment at least once during their lifetime. Based on the type of sexual harassment, touching personal bodies (internal organs) is the sexual harassment most often experienced by students. The second most common form of peer sexual harassment is making body organs such as the buttocks, reproductive organs, and breasts the subject of jokes. From this data, it is known that the frequency of sexual harassment varies. Some have only experienced it once, twice, and three or more times.

The second analysis was carried out to find out whether students had ever been perpetrators of sexual harassment. Table 2 presents the frequency of behavior that indicates that students have been perpetrators of sexual harassment.

Table 2. Perpetrators of Sexual Violence

No	Types of sexual harassment	Never	Once	A Few Times	Many Times
1	Touching another person's private organs without consent	47	12	1	0
2	Kissing another person without consent	54	5	1	0
3	Trying to kiss another person without consent	51	7	2	0
4	Calling other people gay, sissies, lesbians, and the like	55	4	1	0
5	Calling others names as bitch or a whore	52	6	2	0
6	Making certain body parts (buttocks, genitals, breasts) into jokes	53	4	2	1
7	Shows images or messages related to nudity and sex	58	2	0	0
8	Sending images or messages related to nudity or sex	56	4	0	0

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Table 2 shows that students have been perpetrators of sexual harassment at least once during their lifetime. Sexual harassment that has been carried out by students is dominated by behavior: touching other people's private organs without consent. Then followed by behavior: trying to kiss other people without consent. There is one student who often makes jokes about certain body parts (buttocks, genitals, breasts). From Table 2 it can be concluded that quite a few students have experienced sexual harassment.

The final analysis was carried out to find out whether students had ever witnessed or witnessed sexual harassment in their environment. The following analysis results are presented in Table 3 below:

Table 3. Witnesses to Sexual Violence

No	Types of sexual harassment	Never	Once	A Few Times	Many Times
1	Watching other people touch private organs without consent	29	14	13	4
2	Seeing someone else kiss someone else without consent	37	12	8	3
3	Seeing someone else try to kiss without consent	36	13	8	3
4	Hearing other people call them gays, sissies, lesbians, and the like	24	22	5	9
5	Hearing other people call people as bitch or a whore	24	14	14	8
6	Seeing other people make jokes about certain body parts (buttocks, genitals, breasts).	25	19	11	5
7	Witnessing other people showing images or messages related to nudity or sex	40	10	9	1
8	Witnessing others sending images or messages related to nudity or sex	41	7	9	3

Based on Table 3, it is known that students have been witnesses to sexual harassment in their environment. The sexual harassment most often witnessed by students is hearing other people refer to them as gay, sissies, lesbians, and the like. Second, students hear other people calling them names like genitals or sluts. Many students have also seen other people make jokes about certain body parts (buttocks, genitals, breasts). When compared with the prevalence of perpetrators and victims, the number of incidents witnessed is greater.

DISCUSSION

The results of this research show that most students in Banten Province have been victims, perpetrators, and witnesses of sexual harassment in their environment. Especially violence committed by peers. Based on a simple comparison, it is known that there are more students who have been sexually harassed than those who have been victims and perpetrators. This comparison is logical because victims of sexual harassment are usually reluctant to reveal their experiences of violence.

The effects that sexual harassment cases have on victims influence victims in making decisions (Trihastuti & Nuqul, 2020). This effect makes victims unable to immediately determine whether to report the case or not. Victims will experience several stages of psychological reactions, including somatic symptoms, decreased performance, anxiety, and determining whether to report cases of sexual harassment or not (Orchowski, & Gidycz, 2012). Victims need time to consider costs and determine several options that will cause delays in sexual harassment cases (Balogh, et al, 2003).

According to Budhastuti & Aryani (2022), the occurrence of sexual harassment among students is largely caused by changes in the socio-cultural system which are starting to lead to advances in technology and information. High school students are now adept at using smartphones so they are easily exposed to information that can encourage students to commit sexual harassment. Social media content can have a direct impact on students committing sexual harassment.

The results of this research show that there are several students in Banten Province who have been victims, perpetrators, and witnesses. Students need to be given understanding and knowledge about sexual harassment. Because understanding and knowledge can prevent teenagers from becoming perpetrators and victims of sexual harassment. Providing understanding and knowledge of sexual violence to adolescents is becoming more urgent because the experience of sexual violence in adolescents influences actions in adulthood (Fulu et al., 2013; Fulu et al., 2017). Furthermore, Fulu et al. (2013) explained that the experience of trauma in children is closely related to acts of sexual abuse and revictimization in the future. For example, the experience of witnessing the abuse of a mother is related to acts of sexual abuse in adulthood (Fulu et al., 2017).

CONCLUSIONS

The research results show that students in Banten Province have been victims, perpetrators, and witnesses of sexual harassment. Many students experience sexual harassment in the form of violence such as touching private bodies (internal organs). Meanwhile, as perpetrators, students most often commit sexual harassment in the form of touching other people's private organs

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without consent. Meanwhile, as a witness, students have seen sexual harassment in the form of hearing other people referred to as gays, sissies, lesbians, and the like. Students need to be given understanding and knowledge about sexual harassment. Because understanding and knowledge can prevent teenagers from becoming perpetrators and victims of sexual harassment.

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