

Analysis Of Family Conflict of Child Victims Sexual Violence in Palembang City

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ABSTRACT:

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Sexual violence against children is a violation of human rights, which has a significant impact on the psychological and social conditions of the victims. This research explores the conflict between victims' families in Palembang City through a qualitative approach using observation and interview methods. The informants comprised 4 victims' families, 4 community members, and 1 representative of the Woman Crisis Center. Data analysis using Nvivo software reveals that family conflicts are often triggered by differences in views in dealing with the impact of victims, which are influenced by socio-cultural factors. Family support, including emotional, instrumental, information, and appreciation, has proven crucial in the recovery process. The results of this research provide insight into the impact of sexual violence on families and provide more effective recommendations for handling similar cases.

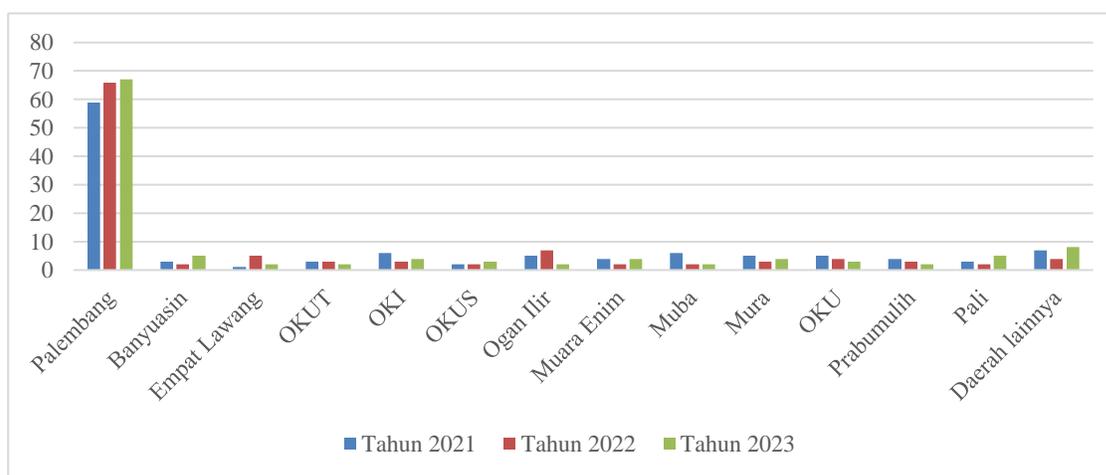
Introduction

Sexual violence against children includes various acts, such as sexual jokes, catcalling, rape, and pornographic exploitation, which have serious impacts on victims regardless of cultural background or social status (Criminal Code articles 281-299; Molyneux et al. 2013). Globally, around 18-20% of women and 8-10% of men experience sexual abuse during childhood, although many do not disclose these experiences. Various countries report cases of sexual violence with varying levels of disclosure. In Pakistan, social stigma is a barrier to reporting, while in France and Russia, the number of victims of sexual violence against children is high and has a major

impact on their physical and mental health (Aaggia, Collin-Vezina D, and Lateef 2017; Batool et al. 2024; Koebe et al. 2024)

The number of violence against children in Indonesia has increased significantly, from 11,057 cases in 2019 to 18,175 cases in 2023, with sexual violence as the most dominant type. Based on KPPA Simfoni data, the number of cases continues to increase yearly, and in 2024 (data as of August), there will be 9,411 cases recorded. In South Sumatra, data from the Woman Crisis Center Palembang shows Palembang City as the region with the highest number of sexual violence cases in the 2020–2023 period, reaching 67 cases in 2023. Other regions, such as Banyuasin and Pali, show a fluctuating pattern of cases, while Empat Lawang, OKUT, and OKI have a lower number of cases but still face protection challenges, especially in rural areas, which recorded 8 cases in 2023.

Graph 1 Sexual violence in South Sumatra by region/city/district in South Sumatra.



Source : Woman Crisis Center, 2024

Sexual violence can be classified into two categories based on the identity of the perpetrator: abuse within the family environment (familial abuse), which includes acts of incest and abuse, and abuse outside the family environment (extra-familial abuse), which is generally carried out by individuals known to the victim. (Kade et al., 2020). Various factors, such as low levels of education, psychological disorders, drug abuse, and lack of social support, contribute to the high rate of sexual violence. Sexual violence is often triggered by abuse of power, with perpetrators targeting younger and less experienced children (Neherta, Fajria, and Mansur, 2023; Tower, 2002; Wibowo, 2020). Children who are in vulnerable conditions, especially among communities with limited economic and educational backgrounds, often choose not to report due

to fear or confusion. Apart from that, patriarchal culture also exacerbates the incidence of sexual violence, especially against children, which leads to increased stigma and discrimination against victims (Bandelli 2021; Finkelhor 2009; Kavenagh, Hua, and Wekerle 2023; Logie et al. 2023; Reza Iravani 2011; Triwijati Whealin 2007; Walby 1990; Sexual violence against children causes serious impacts, such as impaired concentration, decreased academic achievement, anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress, as well as social stigma (Anderson et al. 2016; Bo and Yating 2023; Finkelhor 2009; Kavenagh et al. 2023; Rodrigues, Hébert, and Philibert 2023; Saunders et al).

Sexual violence against girls often triggers interpersonal conflicts within families. According to Soekanto (2015), social conflict is a process in which individuals or groups conflict with each other to achieve their goals, which can involve threats or acts of violence. This is supported by Pritt and Rubbin (in Irwandi, 2017), who state that conflict reflects differences in interests or the belief that the parties' goals cannot be achieved simultaneously. The factors causing conflict identified by Soekanto (2015) include several aspects. First, individual differences, such as differences in opinions or feelings, are part of unique human nature. Disharmony in social relationships often increases the potential for conflict. Second, differences in cultural backgrounds, which shape individual personalities differently, can be a source of conflict when thought patterns do not align. Third, differences in interests between individuals or groups, especially in the political, economic, social, or cultural fields. Fourth, rapid societal value changes, such as the transition from the value of mutual cooperation to individualism due to industrialization, can shake social stability. Diana (2006) added that three main aspects can trigger conflict. First, poor communication, such as misunderstandings in language use or incomplete information. A second structure involves competition for power, limited resources, or dependency between individuals or groups. Third, personal aspects include a mismatch between individual goals and their role or changes in values and social perceptions that are not in harmony.

Family conflicts of victims of sexual violence are not only influenced by internal factors but also external pressure from the social environment. Differences in opinion about how to handle a victim's trauma often worsen interpersonal relationships within the family. If not handled immediately, this conflict can disrupt the victim's recovery and increase the emotional burden on the family. Therefore, a holistic approach based on open communication is needed to effectively deal with these various forms of conflict. Conflict has an important role as an instrumental process

in forming, integrating, and maintaining social structures. Conflict also maintains boundaries between groups so that each group can maintain its identity. Tensions with other groups often strengthen internal solidarity and prevent assimilation into the wider social environment. According to Coser (1956), conflict can be managed through the mechanism of a "rescue valve," which is a way to defuse hostility and tension so that it does not develop into more serious damage to the relationship. This mechanism allows individuals or groups to channel dissatisfaction with the system in a controlled manner so that tensions can be reduced without triggering greater conflict. Coser divides conflict into two types: realistic conflict and non-realistic conflict. Realistic conflict arises from disappointment with specific demands that are not met. In contrast, non-realistic conflict is not based on specific goals but rather aims to relieve tension, such as the use of magic in traditional societies or the diversion of anger through scapegoating in modern societies (Ritzer, 2012; in Wahid and Tualeka, 2017).

Coser refers to Simmel's view that conflict within groups indicates healthy social integration. He rejects the view that conflict is a sign of weakness in social relations. Conversely, the absence of conflict may reflect weak cohesion within the group. According to Coser, well-managed conflict can strengthen social structures and relationships between groups and between individuals. Thus, differences of opinion and tension do not always have a negative impact but can be a constructive element that supports the stability and development of the group as a whole (Coser 1956; Crosbie 2015; in Wahid and Tualeka 2017).

This research has great urgency in answering the gap in understanding regarding the impact of sexual violence on children, especially in the context of conflict among families of victims of sexual violence in Palembang City. Sexual violence against children not only leaves physical and psychological scars on the victim but can also shake the social and emotional stability of the family. This impact can extend to various aspects of family life, such as relationships between family members, parenting functions, and even economic conditions. Therefore, it is important to examine how the victim's family conflicts and how the family responds and manages the trauma caused by sexual violence. The family is not only a place of protection but also has great potential as an agent of change that can prevent sexual violence from an early age.

This research also aims to provide a more in-depth picture of conflict in the families of victims of sexual violence against children in Palembang City. Therefore, it is important to explore how internal family dynamics, such as communication patterns between family members, gender

roles, and social support, can influence families' ability to protect and care for their children who are victims of violence.

Method

This research uses a qualitative approach to explore the phenomenon of sexual violence against children in depth by applying the case study method (William, 2008 in Ahyar and Juliana Sukmana, 2020). The main focus of this research is analyzing family conflicts of victims of sexual violence against children in Palembang City. Palembang was the research location because, based on data from the WCC, it is an area with a high level of vulnerability to cases of sexual violence. Additionally, Palembang City has unique social complexity compared to other regions in South Sumatra. This complexity includes economic, social, and cultural factors that influence the occurrence of sexual violence. On the other hand, as a big city.

A case study approach was applied to identify the social impacts of this phenomenon on the family structure (Lincoln and Denzin 2018). Primary data was collected through in-depth interviews and observations, while secondary data was obtained from various relevant literature sources (Bob and Liz 2010; Creswell 2021; Patton 1990). The unit of analysis (Jornet and Damşa 2021) in this research is the family, so the conflicts that arise in this research are micro in nature. The research informants consisted of four families of victims of child sexual violence selected using the snowball technique, five members of the Palembang City community, and the head of the Women's Crisis Center. Data validity is maintained through source triangulation, which connects the victim's perspective with the views of family members, and method triangulation, which combines interviews, observation, and secondary data. Data analysis in this study used NVivo software because of its ability to handle large and varied data volumes that are difficult to analyze manually (Bazeley and Jackson 2013; Jones 2014). The data collected came from various sources, including interviews with victims' families, related parties, and the community. NVivo makes it easy to organize data systematically and supports data triangulation to ensure the validity of findings by combining interview data, observations, and related documents. The use of NVivo speeds up and ensures that complex data can be analyzed efficiently and comprehensively and produces valid and relevant findings (Kusumadewi, Puspitaloka, et al. 2024; Priyantni et al. 2020) regarding the dynamics of conflict in families of victims of sexual violence against children in Palembang City.

The use of NVivo in this research begins with the data collection stage, which includes interviews, observations, and other secondary data, which is then transcribed into text form (Soehardi, Putri, and Dinata 2021). After collecting the data, the transcripts were entered into NVivo for coding. NVivo allows researchers to group data into codes that represent certain themes or categories (Sidik and Mulya 2011), such as the impact of sexual violence, family support, perceptions of sexual violence, and family conflict. NVivo also supports in-depth thematic analysis, which allows researchers to identify relationships between emerging themes, such as parenting, gender, power relations, and family conditions in the context of sexual violence. The search and query features in NVivo make it easier for researchers to find specific keywords or phrases in various data sources so that researchers can obtain a more comprehensive picture of the interaction between social norms, gender roles, and communication patterns in the family, and how these factors influence family response to sexual violence. This process is very important in analyzing how the family acts as a victim's protector or, in some situations, can worsen the victim's condition.

Result and Discussion

This research found that family conflict involving victims of sexual violence involves significant emotional stress on all family members, changes in the role of parents, and the presence of social stigma that hinders the victim's recovery efforts. Families affected by sexual violence often experience tension that leads to family dysfunction, with barriers to communication and understanding of the traumatic experiences experienced by the victim. One of the main findings was a significant change in interaction patterns between family members, where parents felt more pressured to protect and support the victim. In contrast, other family members tended to be confused about the appropriate attitude. In some cases, inadequate family support, both emotional and practical, worsens the victim's mental condition and slows down the recovery process.

Psychological Impact After Sexual Violence Occurs in Children

Based on the results of field research, children who are victims of sexual violence often experience the impact of very deep trauma, which not only affects their mental health but also their physical health. The trauma experienced by these victims can vary in different forms, and the

impact is often long-lasting, even lasting into adulthood. Psychological trauma that occurs in children who are victims of sexual violence can appear in various forms, such as depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). All of these conditions have a huge impact on children's quality of life, disrupting their daily activities and often damaging their psychological well-being in the long term. As stated by informant T (Female, 15 years):

"Since the harassment incident, I have had difficulty sleeping and feel afraid of meeting people, especially men."

In many cases, children who experience sexual abuse have difficulty concentrating, which affects their ability to focus on even simple tasks. This condition often leads to a decline in academic achievement because they cannot attend lessons optimally, both at school and home. This disrupted learning process has a greater impact in the long term, as poor academic performance can limit their opportunities to develop socially and economically in the future. This is confirmed by informant EK (Female, 16 years old):

"At the beginning of the incident, some of my test scores dropped because I had difficulty focusing on studying."

Apart from the significant psychological impact, the trauma experienced by children who are victims of sexual violence is also closely related to physical health problems, such as sleep disorders. One common symptom is insomnia, which can cause ongoing difficulty sleeping. This was felt by informant K (female, 14 years old):

"I have difficulty sleeping because of yesterday's events. Sometimes, it carries over into my dreams."

Sleep disorders experienced by victims of sexual violence have a negative impact on their physical and mental condition. The fatigue that arises from lack of sleep hinders the energy recovery process, worsens anxiety, and reduces the ability to overcome trauma. As a result, the quality of life of victims decreases, not only in terms of physical and mental health but also in their social relationships.

Conflict within the Family

Conflict between parents

Sexual violence experienced by children not only has a direct impact on the victim but also affects parents. In this context, parents, especially mothers, are often faced with feelings of anxiety,

anger, and depression. These feelings influence how they respond to the incident, both in dealing with the victim and interacting with other family members. On the other hand, fathers tend to focus more on practical aspects after incidents of sexual violence against children. They may be more oriented towards seeking legal or medical help, trying to solve problems rationally and logically. As stated by S (mother of victim E, 50 years old):

"I always try to listen and pay full attention to my child's feelings. I know he needs me to feel safe and loved more than anything else."

This was reinforced by E (victim, 16 years old)

"Mother always accompanies me, while father often meets with the school to resolve problems."

In an interview with the informant, T (father of E, 56 years old)

"I felt very angry and wanted revenge on the perpetrator, but I knew that my child needed more support than that. I sometimes struggle to balance the desire for justice and my child's need to feel safe and loved."

These differences in treatment often trigger disputes between parents, which not only affect them, but also children who feel they do not receive adequate support from both parents. As stated by S (mother of victim E, 50 years old):

"I often have disagreements with my husband regarding our child's problems. I feel that E needs to be given peace first, but my husband doesn't agree. He believes that I can take care of E, while he should handle matters with the school to resolve the problem quickly."

Tension between parents, of course, complicates the recovery process for victims of sexual violence if it is not handled immediately and properly. Misalignment in the way problems are handled, both from an emotional and practical perspective, can add to the psychological burden on children, who should receive full support from both parents. This tension often creates an atmosphere that is not conducive to the child's trauma recovery, thereby slowing down the healing process.

Conflict between parents and child victims

Conflict between parents and children who are victims of sexual violence can arise due to various factors, including differences in how parents respond to the incident and differences in perceptions regarding how trauma should be handled. Children who are victims of sexual violence

often face difficulty expressing feelings and managing the trauma, while parents who feel anxious, angry, or even depressed may have difficulty providing the emotional support needed. Disagreements between parents and children regarding the best way to deal with them often create tension in their relationship, which can worsen the child's psychological condition. In an interview with the informant, K (victim, 14 years old)

"I felt like I was struggling alone in dealing with this trauma. My mother was just angry about what happened to me. My case was not reported because of the shame if the neighbors found out while my father was not around."

This was confirmed by B (aunt of victim K, 45 years old):

"My sister is afraid to report it and is also not very close to her children. Poor K is struggling alone. K often tells me stories, but I can't help much."

The emotional tension that arises from disagreements or differences in parents' perspectives in responding to these incidents often creates an atmosphere that is not conducive to the child's recovery. Children who should receive full support from their parents actually feel isolated or not understood, which can worsen their psychological condition.

Conflict between siblings

Conflicts between siblings in the family often arise as a result of differences in perceptions, values, or perspectives on problems that occur in the family, including cases of sexual violence against children. When one sibling becomes a victim, the entire family can experience significant changes. Other family members, especially the victim's siblings, can feel depressed, confused, or even neglected because the attention of parents or other family members is more focused on the victim. This often creates tension in previously harmonious relationships between siblings because they do not always understand each other's feelings or needs in dealing with such difficult situations. As stated by D (brother of victim T, 20 years old):

"I felt very worried and confused. I had difficulty communicating well because I was afraid that I would hurt my sister's feelings who were hurt."

It's different with A (E's sister, 20 years old)

"My mother was very focused on E's problems, while my father communicated more with the school. I felt like I was being ignored and didn't know how I could help."

This feeling of abandonment often arises when the attention of parents or other family members is focused on the victim, and siblings find it difficult to get the attention or support they need. Differences in emotional responses between siblings can also worsen the situation. Some try to give the victim their full attention, while others may feel angry or frustrated because they cannot do much. All this leads to tensions that worsen the relationship between the siblings. This conflict between siblings can also worsen the victim's recovery. When siblings feel misunderstood or neglected, they may be reluctant to communicate with their parents or the victim. This worsens the victim's recovery process, which requires emotional support from all family members, including siblings.

Conflict with Extended Family

Conflicts with the extended family often arise after cases of sexual violence against children, especially when other family members have different views or reactions to the situation. In many cases, the extended family often gets involved in handling this problem. However, they do not always have the same understanding of the appropriate way to support the victim and the immediate family. Different views about how trauma should be handled or even about the decision to involve the authorities can cause significant tension. S (mother of victim E, 50 years old), she said,

"My extended family often gives me advice, but they don't understand what it's like to be in my position. Some of them suggested immediately forgiving the perpetrator so as not to damage the family's good name, while I felt that my child needed protection and support without having to think about that."

K (victim of sexual violence, 14 years old) also conveyed a similar thing.

"My uncle and aunt ostracized me. They thought I was lying because I wanted to get attention."

Conflict with the extended family can also exacerbate tensions within the nuclear family. In some cases, the extended family may feel they have the right to intervene, especially if the matter impacts the family's reputation. Meanwhile, the victim's parents may feel that the extended family is not sensitive enough to the trauma experienced by their child and feel forced to deal with pressure coming from various parties.

Causes of Conflict in Families of Sexual Violence Victims

Victims' Psychological Trauma Factors

The psychological impact experienced by the victim is one of the causes of conflict within the family. Children who are victims of sexual violence often experience deep trauma, which impacts their behavior and emotions. According to an interview with Mrs Yesi, Chair of the WCC Palembang City

"Trauma after sexual violence can affect the victim's interaction patterns with other family members. Often, the victim shows symptoms of withdrawing or, conversely, becomes irritable, which can trigger misunderstandings within the family."

This was reinforced by K (victim, 14 years old)

"Now I prefer to be alone because I'm worried that if I interact with other people, I will be asked about what happened yesterday."

Not only informant K but also informant B, who is K's aunt, also revealed that K tends to be alone more often, seems to daydream, and sometimes cries. If not managed well, this emotional imbalance can trigger conflict between family members. Apart from that, differences of opinion within the family regarding how to handle cases of sexual violence are also a source of conflict. Some family members may be more inclined to hide the case to avoid social stigma, while others may insist that the case be reported to the authorities. An interview with Yesi's mother, who handled several cases of sexual violence, revealed that

"Often, the victim's father wants to seek justice through legal channels, but other family members are concerned about the social impact on the family, so they choose to resolve the issue internally. This kind of difference in views creates significant tension."

Cultural Factors

Cultural factors also play an important role in family conflict after sexual violence. In many societies, including those with strong patriarchal norms, there is a tendency to blame the victim or the victim's mother for what has happened. This often creates conflict between husband and wife or between parents and children. As stated by S (mother of victim E)

"Several times, E's father told me why I wasn't more careful in looking after and monitoring our son's association. In fact, I felt I had tried my best to protect our family."

This statement was strengthened by E (victim, 16 years old), who revealed that his closeness to his father was not well maintained due to his father's busy life as a trader. His father was often not at home due to work demands, so interaction between the two was very limited. On the other hand, the mother is always present at home and interacts more with E and his siblings. This condition describes the dynamics in the family, which are influenced by the role and busyness of the parents, where the role of the father, who should be an authoritative figure and provide more attention, is often replaced by the mother. Limited interaction with fathers can affect children's emotional and psychological development due to the lack of a father figure in everyday life. In this context, mothers are the main caregiver who carries out family functions at home, while fathers are more focused on work and sources of family income. This situation also creates an imbalance in family interaction patterns, which can affect how children relate to their parents and contribute to dynamics of conflict or lack of closeness with their parents. The absence of a father in daily life can cause children to feel that they do not receive the attention and guidance that a father figure should provide, which in turn can affect family relationships as a whole.

Lack of Effective Communication

Lack of effective communication within the family can be a major trigger for internal conflict. After a traumatic event, many families face difficulty discussing the event openly. This inability creates emotional distance between family members, which in turn can worsen psychological conditions for both the victim and the entire family. Informant T (father of victim E) revealed that he found it difficult to talk to E after the incident. He felt awkward and didn't know how to start a conversation, and was worried that this conversation could actually worsen his child's emotional condition. These communication barriers often stem from feelings of shame, fear, or not knowing how to appropriately provide support to family members who have experienced trauma. As a result, tension and confusion arise within the family, where each member feels isolated and finds it difficult to share feelings or provide emotional support. This exacerbates internal conflicts within the family, hampers the healing process, and damages the quality of relationships between family members. Therefore, open and effective communication is essential to support recovery and strengthen post-traumatic family bonds.

Furthermore, the family's inability to access support services such as psychological counseling or legal assistance can exacerbate internal conflicts within the family. Victim families

who do not receive professional help often feel isolated and do not have the knowledge or resources to overcome the problems they face. The inability to access these services can worsen the emotional and psychological state of family members, potentially increasing tensions within the household. As stated by Mrs. Yesi, head of the Women's Crisis Center (WCC), in an interview, many victims' families feel embarrassed to seek help or don't even know where to look for a solution. This condition shows that social and psychological barriers limit the family's awareness of the importance of seeking external help. This shame and lack of understanding often lead to feelings of increasing frustration. As a result, existing tensions in the family can develop into arguments between family members, exacerbating conflicts between individuals. In addition, feelings of isolation and the absence of channels to resolve problems worsen the recovery process for victims and their families, leaving them trapped in a cycle of ongoing conflict. The inability of families to seek professional support also highlights the importance of broader outreach and education regarding the support services available to victims of violence to reduce the shame and stigma that prevent them from seeking help.

Family Economic Factors

Economic pressure is also a significant factor in worsening the situation of families of victims of sexual violence. After such violent incidents, many families must face additional unexpected costs, such as the cost of medical care for victims and the costs of psychological counseling needed to support the victim's recovery process. This economic burden often becomes a big challenge for families, especially those already squeezed by limited resources or income. In addition to facing anxiety and frustration, disadvantaged families often feel forced to choose between meeting the family's basic needs and seeking necessary care for the victim. This imbalance can increase internal tension within the family, affecting relationships between family members and worsening their quality of life. Economic pressures also hinder families' access to much-needed services, such as medical care and psychological support, which play an important role in the victim's recovery and the family's overall healing process. The inability to meet these needs creates feelings of hopelessness and frustration that can exacerbate internal conflict within the family, making it an important factor to consider in dealing with cases of sexual violence.

The existence of social stigma in society

Social stigma from society is one of the factors that also worsens the situation faced by families of victims of sexual violence. When a family becomes a victim of sexual violence against one of its members, societal stigma often worsens the family's condition. It is not uncommon for victims' families to face discrimination among neighbors and relatives. In this context, stigma not only affects relationships between family members but also adds to the already heavy emotional burden on the family as a whole. Feelings of shame, judgment, and fear of negative views from society often cause families to feel isolated and have difficulty finding social support.

As expressed by H (neighbor of victim E's family),

“We often hear negative stories about their families, and it must be very difficult for them to deal with all this pressure.”

Negative perceptions spread in society worsen the feelings of families who are already troubled by traumatic events. They feel that society judges them even before they can face and overcome the situation that occurs. This stigma is not only in the form of words but also in actions or attitudes conveyed indirectly, such as avoidance, ridicule, or rejection from the surrounding community. This experience is clearly visible in the results of observations made on the victim's family in their neighborhood. Many family members avoid meeting neighbors or relatives, reduce social interactions, and prefer to stay at home. In some cases, they also feel reluctant to seek support outside the family for fear of negative reactions from others. This shows how much influence stigma has on family social life. Apart from that, fear of public judgment also causes families to prefer to cover up the problems they face rather than seek the support that is really needed.

Furthermore, societal stigma also plays a role in worsening the mental health of family members. Constant social pressure can lead to feelings of depression, anxiety, and fear. In some cases, this feeling is felt by the victim and the family who feel the social stigma. This is reflected in the results of an interview with victim E's mother, who stated:

"I feel depressed every time I hear people talk about my child. I know they don't know what's happening, but it makes me feel heavy."

These feelings of pressure can lead to increased family conflict because each family member carries a heavy emotional burden but cannot express it freely due to the stigma that constantly lurks. This social pressure can worsen the situation by creating a sense of social injustice

the victim's family feels. Families feel that they are treated unfairly by society, making it quicker to make negative judgments without understanding the context of the events. In many cases, this social stigma is closely related to cultural norms that judge mistakes and imperfections harshly and often ignore the deeper causal factors of violent incidents. This view can hinder social justice achievement and families' efforts to seek the support they need to recover.

Support for victims of sexual violence against children

Emotional Support

The psychological impact experienced by victims of sexual violence is significant and can affect various aspects of the victim's life. Therefore, support from the family and people around the victim is important in helping the victim overcome these impacts. As expressed by E (16 year old victim):

"At that time, my mother paid more attention to my condition and often hugged me, even though I knew my condition also hurt her heart."

This was also reinforced by S (mother of victim E)

"I always make sure to talk to my child every day, even if it's just asking about his daily life. I want him to know that we are always there for him."

The physical presence of the family is an important source of strength for victims in facing the trauma phase, but not all families can express this support. As expressed by K (14-year-old victim):

"Now mom is more silent, even though I really need mom."

This statement was reinforced by B (victim K's aunt), who explained that her sister was unable to provide emotional support to K when he was in his worst condition. As a result, K had to face his trauma alone. Emotional support is not only needed by victims of sexual violence but also by their families. Families often face heavy emotional stress as a result of these events, such as feelings of guilt, anger, or confusion in dealing with the situation. When families receive adequate emotional support, they can better provide the victim with a stable and loving environment. Thus, the emotional strengthening of the family contributes significantly to the victim's recovery process and maintains the psychological balance of all family members.

Financial Support

Financial support has a significant role in supporting the recovery of victims of sexual violence, parallel to the importance of emotional support. One of the main aspects of financial support is ensuring victims can access adequate healthcare services, including psychological therapy, to overcome the trauma they have experienced. Psychological trauma often requires professional intervention, such as counseling or cognitive-behavioral therapy, which not only helps victims manage their emotions but also rebuild their self-confidence. However, the reality shows that not all victims of sexual violence have access to these services because of the high costs required.

As stated by Mrs. Yessy, Chair of the Women's Crisis Center (WCC), several victims of sexual violence are unable to access psychological services due to financial limitations. This condition exacerbates the impact experienced by victims because, without professional support, victims often carry this emotional burden for years. Untreated trauma can affect many aspects of a victim's life, including their social relationships, education, and ability to live a productive life. In some cases, prolonged trauma can even develop into post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), which is more difficult to overcome.

On the other hand, institutions such as the WCC often try to offer assistance to victims, both in the form of psychological assistance and financial support, to ease their burden. These programs are designed to help victims access counseling or therapy services, which should be integral to the recovery process. However, the success of these programs is not always achieved because some victims and their families are reluctant to attend the counseling sessions that have been provided. Factors such as social stigma, lack of understanding of the importance of psychological treatment, or embarrassment are major barriers to utilizing such support.

Social Support

Social support is one of the main pillars in the recovery process for victims of sexual violence. Apart from emotional and financial support, a supportive social environment and access to institutions that provide assistance are important factors in reducing the impact experienced by victims. In this context, institutions such as the Women's Crisis Center (WCC) have a strategic role in providing social support to victims. As stated by Mrs. Yessy, Chair of the WCC, their institution provides counseling for victims and plays an active role in providing legal assistance.

Ms. Yessy said that the WCC had handled various cases of sexual violence, including cases involving children, and that their agency often acted as a mediator who helped victims report the incident to the authorities. In an interview, Mrs. Yessy stated:

"We at WCC provide counseling and help victims obtain justice by accompanying them in the legal process. We try to ensure that victims know their rights and get access to appropriate legal services."

Institutions such as the WCC play an important role in creating access for victims to speak out and report the violence they have experienced, especially when victims or their families feel hampered by social stigma or fear of retaliation from perpetrators. Apart from providing psychological support, WCC also provides legal education to victims and families so that they understand legal procedures and their rights in the reporting and court process. This is very important because often, victims of sexual violence feel isolated and do not know where to start to seek justice. However, even though institutions such as the WCC try to provide support, in reality, there are still many victims who are reluctant to report the violence they experience. Stigma factors, fear of rejection from family or society, and deep impacts often prevent victims from seeking help.

Family support for victims of sexual violence against children includes interrelated emotional, financial, and social aspects. Regular communication, physical presence, and expressions of affection are the main foundations of emotional support that can help victims feel safe. Meanwhile, financial support, such as financing education and therapy, as well as social support, such as access to counseling and community assistance, strengthens the victim's recovery process. However, challenges such as social stigma, economic burdens, and internal family conflicts often hinder this process.

Discussion

The media which is regarded as the fourth estate of the realm and the fourth arm of government stands as a tool for public checkmate for the authorities that be. The tools of the media both electronic, print and new media occupy an irreversible position in the affairs of the states and daily happenings of the populace. Media in politics is not a new trend or a phase in social occurrences but the oldest form of government checkmate tools from town criers to village meetings to newsletters to television and radio broadcasting now to social media era. With regards

to the study, the effects of social media in politics especially during and after elections in Nigeria is a force to reckon with as a major percentage of the populace visit these media sites to gather information, lobby for preferred voters and so on, as such political parties and candidates should be careful of information circulated across social media platforms and the populace should confirm and verify media messages before swallowing media contents hook, line and sinker. This is in line with a study by Abalaka, (2018) which revealed that social media have become so powerful to influence voter's decisions and choices, as many voters preferred candidates or parties began to change their minds based on certain information or ideas sourced online about the party or candidate in question.

Media in the society is held in high esteem by the populace as they serve as the ears and eyes of the common man in the affairs of the government. Social media in pre, during and post-election in Nigeria roles cannot be overemphasized as it stands as the only venue where individuals can wholly pour out their minds either in commendation or condemnation with regards to actions and inactions. It is, therefore, imperative that messages dispatched in social media platforms especially with regards to election matters be verifiable, true, credible and justifiable. These views were supported by Ajiteru, (2019) was of the view that with the advent of social media platforms, many voters access information, debate the sourced information, and give feedback, opinions, and expectations from the party and candidate before, during and after elections.

The line between chaos and peace is held by a strand of thread that needs no much pressure to snap. With regards to impacts of uncensored and unverified information passed across social media platforms during election period in Nigeria, it is evident that more harms are done rather than good, as tribes, individuals and even political parties create a hostile and toxic avenue for any comment, tweet, video or messages that goes contrary to their ideologies, some even releasing damaging information and unverified content as avenue to outsmart or ridicule opposing parties and candidates. This is in tandem with a study by Emmanuel (2017) that almost all political parties utilise social media platforms in campaign process and advancement of set plans and as such verifiable information should be an integral component of political packages delivered to the masses.

Freedom of speech and expression should not water down ethics of communication and social activities in the circulation of information and with regards to this study, election information. Although there are no known gatekeepers of social media, the people's consciousness

can stand as a gatekeeper by ensuring that contents and messages with regards to election and other matters of the state be handled with the deepest care as the government is not just one person but the whole community and as such, an unbiased and ethical analysis of events is vital in dissection of politically related events. This is supported by a study by Sulaiman, Abalaka, & Ajiteru, (2017) in who came to reasonable conclusion that although social media influenced youths' choice of political candidate and party, as such parties and candidates should be weary and careful of contents released on media outlets especially social media.

Conclusion

Analysis of family conflicts of victims of sexual violence in Palembang City can be explained through the perspective of Lewis A. Coser's theory, which emphasizes the positive function of conflict in social relationships. Conflicts that occur in victims' families are often rooted in role imbalance, disappointment with family members' responses, or an inability to overcome shared trauma (Bhati et al. 2025). Family conflicts of victims of sexual violence often show the characteristics of latent conflicts, namely conflicts that are hidden or not directly visible in the dynamics of everyday relationships. Even though it is not explicitly visible, these hidden tensions can affect relationships between family members and potentially trigger open conflict if not addressed immediately. The sources of this latent conflict vary, ranging from feelings of shame and social stigma, which make families reluctant to discuss problems openly, to differences in views regarding recovery steps, both for the victim and the family as a whole. In this context, conflict can function as a “rescue valve” that provides space for family members to express their emotions, even in the form of tension or disagreement. This process, if managed well, has the potential to strengthen the family's identity as a victim support unit, in line with the concept of enhancing group identity explained by Coser (in Crosbie 2015)

Coser emphasizes that conflict has an integrative function that can help a group or family to clarify roles, responsibilities, and expectations among its members. In the families of victims of sexual violence, conflict often arises due to intense emotional stress, originating from feelings of guilt, shame, or anger towards the perpetrator or the social system that is deemed to have failed to provide protection. In this context, conflict can function as a mechanism for re-evaluating a family's norms, values, and expectations for its members (Bokharey, Fahim, and Tahir, 2021). For example, conflicts arising due to differences in views regarding how to support victims can open

up a space for discussing victims' emotional and practical needs. However, in intimate relationships such as families, conflicts often become complex due to high emotional involvement. As stated by Coser, conflict in intimate relationships is more difficult to express openly because of deep feelings of affection and fear of damaging the relationship. In the case of families of victims of sexual violence, conflict can emerge in the form of pent-up tension, where family members may be reluctant to voice their dissatisfaction for fear of adding to the victim's emotional burden. This can worsen the situation if the conflict is not managed well, resulting in increased stress and decreased family cohesion (Ritzer 2012) in Crosbie 2015).

The realistic and non-realistic conflicts described by Coser are also relevant in analyzing family conflicts of victims of sexual violence. Realistic conflict, for example, can be seen when the family seeks justice for the victim through legal channels. Differences of opinion regarding what legal strategies or social interventions should be taken can trigger disputes among family members. In contrast, non-realistic conflict may appear as a manifestation of unresolved emotional tension, such as anger or frustration directed at other family members for no apparent reason. This kind of conflict is often more difficult to overcome because it does not have a specific goal but rather simply reflects the need to relieve tension. In close family relationships, conflict often impacts not only the individual but also the dynamics of the group as a whole. Coser highlights that the closer the relationship, the greater the tendency to suppress hostility rather than express it directly. In families of victims of sexual violence, this is often seen in the form of conflict avoidance or attempts to maintain false harmony. However, this conflict avoidance can backfire if pent-up tension eventually explodes in the form of destructive conflict that damages family relationships (Adhikari et al. 2025). On the other hand, well-managed conflict can be a tool to strengthen family relationships and support victims' recovery. This approach aligns with the "rescue valve" concept proposed by Coser, where conflict can provide an outlet for pent-up emotions without permanently damaging the relationship structure (in Crosbie 2015).

Increasing group identity is also an important aspect that can be triggered by conflict in the families of victims of sexual violence (Chu, Ji, and Li 2025). Coser (in Crosbie 2015) explains that conflict with outside parties can strengthen internal group solidarity. In this context, the family's struggle to seek justice for the victim can strengthen relationships between family members and strengthen their commitment to protect and support the victim. However, this solidarity can only be achieved if internal conflicts are constructively resolved. In addition, it is important to

understand that family conflicts of victims of sexual violence cannot be separated from the broader social, cultural, and structural context. In a society that is still influenced by patriarchal norms and stigma toward victims of sexual violence, family conflicts are often influenced by external pressures. For example, families may face stigma from a victim-blaming society, which can exacerbate internal tensions and complicate efforts to support victims. Intervention from third parties, such as counselors or support agencies, can help families manage conflict and overcome external pressures in situations like this.

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