

Social and Legal Constellations in Efforts to Protect Victims of Domestic Violence: A Sociological and Juridical Analysis

Nailil Izzati Saadi, Nelud Darajaatul Aliyah, Rahayu Mardikaningsih

Universitas Sunan Giri Surabaya, Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

This study discusses the relationship between social factors, religious norms, state regulations, and the implementation of the Law on the Elimination of Domestic Violence in relation to the opportunities and obstacles to protecting victims of domestic violence in Indonesia. Analysis based on a sociological approach to law shows that domestic violence is closely related to patriarchal cultural constructs and gender-biased interpretations of religion, where the protection process is often hampered by low legal literacy, social stigma, and structural barriers at the practical level. The main findings of the literature study indicate that although a legal framework is in place, the implementation of protection for victims is still far from expectations due to suboptimal synergy between institutional actors and uneven public education. In addition to barriers to reporting, psychological and economic determinants also play a major role in delaying victims' efforts to access formal protection. The effectiveness of the protection system ultimately requires a transformation of values, increased capacity of officials and institutions, and consistent multisectoral collaboration. This study makes an important contribution in the form of a factual overview and thematic synthesis analysis that can be used as a reference for the development of policies for the protection of victims of domestic violence in a more humane and equitable manner.

INTRODUCTION

Academic and social debates on domestic violence continue to receive attention in the fields of family law and sociology. In the social construction of modern society, domestic violence is often rooted in unequal gender relations and cultural perceptions that make the privacy of the family a grey area for legal intervention. The intersection of social norms, religion and legal practice has prompted new research examining the relationship between social ethics, legal sanctions and power dynamics within the family. A review of the literature over the past two decades suggests that cases of domestic violence are often hidden behind the walls of the household, making them difficult to accurately identify or effectively intervene in by law enforcement officials (Fulu, 2013; Platt, 2017).

Recent studies emphasize that domestic violence is a serious problem, not only in physical terms, but also in psychological, economic, and sexual dimensions that underpin the entire family unit. Social norms that place women in a subordinate

position further exacerbate disparities in husband-wife relationships, often even nullifying legal enforcement efforts designed through national legal instruments. Various literature highlights the lack of effective grassroots protection mechanisms as a result of the complexity of patriarchal culture and social stigma against victims (Antasari, 2021; Arsyam et al., 2021; Ghafournia, 2017). These structural barriers are also evident in the context of legal protection for victims of sexual violence. As explained by Pratama et al. (2022), despite the existence of a legal framework, the implementation of legal protection for victims is often hampered by social constructs and biases in law enforcement that are not fully victim-oriented. Behind these social constructs, the state has introduced progressive regulations such as Law No. 23 of 2004 on the Elimination of Domestic Violence, which is actually aimed at providing comprehensive protection for victims.

In practice, support for these regulations has not been fully adopted, whether in terms of case

* Corresponding author, email address: rahayumardikaningsih@gmail.com

reporting, handling procedures, or the victim recovery process. Various obstacles arise due to limited legal knowledge among the public and the tendency of officials to view violence as a private matter. In the context of overcoming this lack of knowledge, the media has a strategic role to play. Hardyansah et al. (2022) emphasize that the media's contribution to raising awareness and protecting human rights is key to providing the public, including victims, with access to legal information. A culture of shame, fear, and victims' reluctance to speak out are the main obstacles to upholding justice (Afrouz et al., 2020; Hossain et al., 2020). Reluctance to report is often based on power relations within the household, as well as a lack of knowledge about the rights protected by the state and religious norms.

The close relationship between sociology and law in examining this issue is very important. A cross-disciplinary approach is needed to understand not only the legal aspects, but also the social context and the mechanisms of community and official involvement in domestic violence interventions. As revealed by Larsen et al. (2013), social norms that affirm patriarchal domination and certain religious interpretations often reduce the protection of women on the basis of domestic obedience. In environments with low legal literacy and limited gender socialization, domestic violence almost always falls into the realm of informal resolution, which does not guarantee protection or justice.

The main problems in handling violence in the domestic sphere still span various areas of analysis. First, legal awareness among victims is generally low, so the process of reporting and prosecution is rarely pursued through formal legal channels. Studies by Antasari (2021) and Afrouz et al. (2020) reflect how women often internalize stigma and shame, leading them to remain silent or seek informal resolution. On the one hand, reporting to the authorities is still hampered by power relations and fear of possible reactions from the perpetrator.

Secondly, there are structural obstacles within law enforcement agencies and social service institutions that lack an understanding of the dynamics of domestic violence victims. Analyses by Fulu (2013) and Ghafournia (2017) show that training on gender perspectives for police, prosecutors and judges is still minimal. As a result, the treatment of victims, whether during reporting, investigation, or trial, does not yet provide comprehensive psychosocial support. In some cases, victims are even intimidated into withdrawing their reports because the resolution is more oriented towards maintaining family harmony than the right to safety.

Third, the intersection between religion, customs, and state regulations often weakens the effectiveness of legal protection. Various gender-biased religious interpretations or customary practices that prioritize family harmony is practiced without consideration for the protection of victims. A number of studies reveal that victims' families often refuse to take cases to court and instead encourage amicable settlements that may not necessarily be fair to the victims (Arsyam et al., 2021; Mundy, 2013; Larsen et al., 2013).

Literature studies emphasize that domestic violence is gender-based violence that often occurs in the private sphere, making it difficult to detect and process through legal channels. The state has implemented Law No. 23 of 2004 on the Elimination of Domestic Violence, but its implementation in the field is still faltering due to low legal literacy among the public. Many victims do not understand their rights or feel afraid and ashamed, so they rarely have the courage to report violence. Sociologically, the strong dominance of patriarchal culture encourages society to view women as parties who must be obedient and tolerate violence as a domestic problem, so it is not prioritized for resolution in court. In addition, legal institutions and women's protection agencies do not yet fully incorporate a gender perspective, so victims often do not receive fair and friendly treatment. The dilemma between social issues and legal consistency is reflected in the effectiveness of the criminal justice system. Mahendra et al. (2023) in their analysis show that the criminal justice system in Indonesia is not yet fully effective in dealing with perpetrators of domestic violence. The legal process is slow and does not favor victims, due to a lack of understanding among officials regarding the psychological dynamics experienced by women. The intersection between social issues and consistency in law enforcement illustrates the lack of effective protection for victims, which ultimately weakens their hopes for recovery and justice.

A critical reading of existing literature has given rise to the need for a new analysis in an effort to summarize more systematically the theoretical synthesis of the forms, characteristics and root causes of domestic violence from the perspective of family law and sociology, with reference to regulations including Law No. 23 of 2004 and the Marriage Law. The focus of the study is on a thematic synthesis that provides factual and field data-based interpretations so as to enrich scientific discourse and assist in formulating real interventions in the social and legal spheres. This study highlights the need for a new

systematic examination of the problems of discrimination, weak enforcement of regulations, and friction between religious doctrine and social norms in addressing domestic violence.

Another issue that deserves attention is the low level of courage among victims to pursue legal channels, which stems from a lack of knowledge about their rights and reporting mechanisms. This inequality is exacerbated by legal institutions and social services that are not fully impartial and capable of responding comprehensively to the needs of victims. In addition, the dominance of certain religious or customary interpretations and practices often leads to internal family resolutions rather than legal processes that uphold substantive justice. Thus, the tendency towards informal resolutions distorts victims' rights to protection and justice.

Further research is increasingly urgent given the systemic impact of domestic violence, not only on individual victims, but also its multidimensional effects such as the breakdown of social relationships, intergenerational psychological disorders, and the increasing burden on the state in addressing gender-based violence cases (Hossain et al., 2020; Afrouz et al., 2020). The increase in the number of reports during the pandemic marks a change in social dynamics, while also demonstrating the urgency of literature studies that can explain the relationship between social factors and law enforcement (Islam, 2021).

Two questions arise from this description: how are social variables, religious norms, state regulations, and the implementation of Law No. 23 of 2004 related to the opportunities and obstacles for protecting victims of domestic violence? Furthermore, what are the main determinants of victims' reluctance to report domestic violence and its implications for the effectiveness of protection?

The purpose of this study is to critically describe the relationship between social factors, state regulations and patterns of law enforcement in cases of domestic violence, along with an analysis of the determinants of the low rate of reporting by victims in a factual and systematic manner. This study contributes to the conceptual and practical understanding of the problem of domestic violence in modern society and encourages data-based academic discourse that is relevant to current issues.

RESEARCH METHOD

The research approach in this study utilizes a qualitative literature review method that prioritizes the exploration of academic sources such as books, scientific journals, and official regulatory documents

related to domestic violence, family law, and sociological perspectives. Literature studies provide flexibility in accessing, comparing, and analyzing a variety of secondary data that has been published authoritatively. Each piece of literature is identified through selection based on criteria of thematic relevance, author credibility, and publication recency. This method is particularly suitable for examining empirically based issues that span multiple disciplines, especially when field studies are not feasible due to the confidential and sensitive nature of the cases (Creswell & Poth, 2018).

Thematic synthesis was chosen as the main analysis strategy with the aim of identifying, organizing, and interpreting thematic patterns that emerged from the literature review. The researchers began the process by carefully reading all the literature that met the inclusion criteria, then manually coding the core findings and conducting analytical discussions on each central theme that emerged. These thematic patterns were then compared and critically reflected upon to find the relationships between theories, facts, and regulations relevant to the main research problem. This type of analysis demonstrates the advantages of a qualitative approach in merging the narrative and argumentative dimensions of both primary and secondary sources (Bowen, 2009).

The use of qualitative literature studies is also supported by systematic search methods through online databases, university libraries, and official legal sources that are recognized nationally and internationally. Data validity is maintained through comparison of findings between sources and clarification of sections that give rise to contradictions or academic polemics. With this method, the study obtains a theoretical framework, empirical arguments, and strong legal references to build conclusions with a high level of confidence (Hart, 2018).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Regulations, Social Dynamics, and Victim Protection Processes

Protection for victims of domestic violence cannot be separated from the interrelated dynamics of society, religion, and law. The interconnection between social variables, religious norms, state regulations, and the implementation of Law No. 23 of 2004 integrally shapes the realm of protection for victims of domestic violence. From the literature, it was found that the social characteristics of Indonesian society, which are still heavily influenced by patriarchal structures, have a strong relationship with high tolerance for gender-based violence. The imbalance of power

relations within the household, supported by socio-cultural constructs that justify the dominant position of men, results in the continued justification of violent behavior at the family level (Platt, 2017; Smith & Wardatun, 2022). Traditionally interpreted religious norms often reinforce male supremacy, conditioning women to accept physical and psychological violence under the pretext of maintaining family harmony or 'marwah' (Larsen et al., 2013; Rifqi, 2021). Efforts to protect victims of domestic violence must consider the structural roots that shape a culture that is permissive of violence.

The implementation of laws to address domestic violence faces complex structural and cultural challenges. The implementation of Law No. 23 of 2004 was designed as a legal instrument to break the chain of violence in the domestic sphere and strengthen protection for victims. The law also aims to provide legal protection for victims of domestic violence and involves the cooperation of various parties, including social institutions, to ensure the safety and welfare of victims (Susantin, 2022). However, implementation in the field often faces obstacles in the form of social resistance, limited legal knowledge among the community, and ambiguity regarding the legitimacy of customary law, religious law, and state law (Salim, 2015; Rokhmad & Susilo, 2017). The resolution of domestic violence tends to be directed through informal channels such as internal family deliberations or religious-based mediation, rather than normative legal resolutions. This practice results in a lack of formal complaints by victims, as they prefer family-based resolutions to state legal mechanisms (Korteweg & Selby, 2012). The implementation of the law must be accompanied by a change in social paradigms and an increase in public legal literacy.

The presence of state regulations in the realm of domestic violence has formed a strict legal framework, but it is not yet fully effective. In the normative legal reality, state regulations are present in the form of categories of violations, legal instruments, and protection procedures as stipulated in the Law on the Elimination of Domestic Violence. These legal provisions cover protection, repressive measures, and victim recovery, which are mandated to be carried out by law enforcement officials and social services (Santoso & Nasrudin, 2021). However, there is an implementation gap due to the existence of dual interpretations between religious norms and state law, so that officials are often hesitant to apply strict sanctions, especially when faced with pressure from traditional or religious leaders who place greater emphasis on family harmony (Idriss et al.,

2011; Ahmed, 2021). As a result, the supremacy of state law in protecting victims of violence is often reduced by the dominance of socio-religious values that are not entirely in favor of the victims.

One of the biggest obstacles in handling cases of violence is the lack of public understanding of their rights and the legal mechanisms available to them. Another very dominant social factor is the low level of legal literacy among the general public. Many victims of violence are unaware of the protection mechanisms available to them and do not even understand that the actions they have experienced constitute violations that can be prosecuted (Alam & Islam, 2015). This misguided social perception does not only stop at the legal aspect, but also shapes a public narrative that is detrimental to victims. As shown by Issalillah & Khayru (2021), the public perception that equates acts of violence, especially domestic violence, as a domestic problem or family disgrace, has serious implications for the mental health and recovery process of victims. Such perceptions contribute to low rates of reporting cases to the formal legal system (Yilmaz, 2016). This obstacle is exacerbated by the social stigma attached to victims, which makes them reluctant to access protection services or even report their suffering to the authorities (Smith & Wardatun, 2022). As a result, the process of handling violence is hampered because many victims are never recorded or receive the assistance they deserve.

In addition to social barriers, challenges in handling violence are also evident at the institutional level. At the institutional level, the legal apparatus has actually provided a normative protection scheme through temporary protection orders, legal consultation services, and psychological recovery mechanisms. However, limited human resources, a lack of training for law enforcement officials who are sympathetic to victims, and cultural resistance at the grassroots level have resulted in these policies being implemented less than effectively (Korteweg & Selby, 2012; Rokhmad & Susilo, 2017). Legal proceedings are slow because officials do not yet fully understand the urgency of a gender-based approach in handling domestic violence cases. Gender equality and justice, meaning that the relationship between men and women is essentially equal or balanced in all social structures, including in organizational systems and cultures, must be ensured so that in the future there will be no discrimination or oppression based on assumptions about the role gap between men and women (Angelita, 2022). Strengthening institutional capacity is key to ensuring that legal protection is more

effective and truly favors victims.

The lack of regulatory coherence poses a serious challenge to the protection of victims of domestic violence. Further studies reveal that institutional governance for victim protection tends to be fragmented due to overlapping regulations between national laws, religious laws, and regional policies (Salim, 2015; Barkah et al., 2022). This fragmentation has resulted in inconsistencies in the imposition of sanctions and weak coordination between relevant agencies. Moreover, in some cases, perpetrators of domestic violence take refuge behind social legitimacy and the influence of community leaders, causing victims to become increasingly isolated without access to recovery efforts. Without institutional integration and regulatory clarity, victims will continue to be in a vulnerable position without effective protection.

Progress in formal law has opened up new opportunities for the protection of victims of domestic violence. However, the implementation of Law No. 23 of 2004 has brought about fundamental changes at the juridical level by affirming the protection of victims as a right protected by the state. The legal umbrella clearly provides bargaining power for victims and opens opportunities for civil society organizations to advocate and provide assistance more freely (Schenk, 2018). Nevertheless, progress in terms of regulation has not been fully matched by the internalization of gender equality values at the community level, so that the application of the law often encounters obstacles. Without the support of corresponding social change, the effectiveness of the law will continue to face obstacles in practice.

Fair law enforcement cannot rely solely on the power of norms, but also on its social reach. Normative legal analysis positions the law as an instrument that must be enforced without compromise on discriminatory values. However, its implementation process is greatly influenced by social variables, especially at the level of enforcement and supervision. Criminological analysis reinforces this understanding by emphasizing that effective law enforcement must be based on a deep understanding of the social roots of crime. As shown in the study by Lukmantara et al. (2022), the criminological approach reveals that the success of law enforcement is highly dependent on the ability to understand the social structures and contexts that give rise to and perpetuate criminal behavior. In terms of norms, the Domestic Violence Elimination Act is very progressive, but its effectiveness is highly relevant to the quality of social relations, the level of education,

and the penetration of legal socialization into grassroots communities (Korteweg & Selby, 2012; Furnier, 2016). The absence of gender-based legal education among lower-middle-class communities creates a grey area that allows various practices of violence to escape the clutches of the law. Without social transformation accompanying regulation, the law risks losing its corrective power against injustice.

Protection for victims of domestic violence (DV) does not only depend on the existence of laws, but also on real support from the community. Opportunities for victim protection are increasingly opening up with the development of community organizations that actively provide education, advocacy and assistance services for victims of DV (Sportel, 2016). However, resistance often arises when the perpetrator is an important figure in the community or a member of the extended family, so that social pressure to reconcile or cover up the case is stronger than the victim's courage to fight for justice. This shows that efforts to promote victim protection cannot stop at the regulatory level, but must be practical and rooted in the collective consciousness of society. Without the active involvement of the community in building a culture of anti-violence, legal protection will be difficult to reach those who need it most.

Social stigma remains a major barrier to protecting victims of domestic violence. The problem of protecting victims of domestic violence is also influenced by the doctrine of "family shame" that surrounds the process from reporting to trial. Conservative social norms place victims in a difficult position; they are caught between the need to protect themselves and the pressure to maintain the family's reputation. In fact, the Domestic Violence Elimination Act explicitly guarantees protection, but in practice, victims are often faced with the dilemma of social sanctions and complicated legal processes. As long as a culture of silence and shame prevails, the law will continue to struggle to reach those most in need of protection.

Protecting victims of domestic violence requires more than just regulations; it requires structured and collaborative strategies. From a managerial perspective, the urgency of protecting victims requires cross-sector collaboration between the government, social organizations, religious leaders, and local communities. A normative legal approach must be combined with cultural transformation within families and communities so that substantive protection for victims is no longer just rhetoric, but is realized in the form of tangible protection, legal advocacy, and long-term psychosocial recovery. With planned and sustained synergy, the victim protection system can move from symbolism to direct effectiveness.

The effectiveness of law is not only determined

by the content of regulations, but also by the social support that accompanies them. Within a theoretical framework, the sociological approach to law provides a basis for understanding the limitations of formal regulations without the constraints of social values and norms. Legal changes must be accompanied by changes in social constructs so that the rights of victims are more than just a legal narrative. In conclusion, the process of protecting victims of domestic violence cannot be left solely to law enforcement agencies, but is the collective responsibility of all components of society that are oriented towards protecting the dignity, rights and future of victims. By combining legal power and social awareness, the protection of victims of domestic violence can become a transformative and sustainable movement.

Determinants of Reporting Cases of Domestic Violence

Victims' fear of reporting is not a reflection of personal weakness, but rather the result of an oppressive social system. Victims' reluctance to report domestic violence is a highly complex issue, stemming from various interrelated social, cultural, psychological, and legal determinants. The low reporting rate of domestic violence cases is also caused by the intimate relationship between the victim and the perpetrator. They may have children together, and victims often depend on perpetrators for financial support (Hamel, 2020). The impact of this complex relationship is very clear on children. As analyzed by Sugiono et al. (2023), in protecting children's rights amid family disputes, the victim's (often the mother's) attachment to the perpetrator for the sake of economic stability and child protection often becomes a dilemma that complicates the reporting and legal process. The social perception that domestic affairs are private has become so ingrained that it burdens victims with the assumption that exposing shameful acts means damaging the family's reputation (Chaudhry, 2013; Grijns & Horii, 2018). This social pressure is reinforced by patriarchal cultural constructs and unequal power relations that make it difficult for women, as the main victims, to voice their suffering. Hossain et al. (2020) emphasize that such social norms not only silence victims, but also prevent outsiders, including authorities, from intervening early or taking preventive measures. As long as social structures continue to normalize violence and burden victims with guilt, the courage to report will remain a luxury that is difficult to attain.

Behind the silence of domestic violence victims

lie psychological wounds that are often invisible but highly significant. Parallel to social factors, psychological determinants influence victims' resilience in fighting the violence they experience. Internalized fear, layered trauma, shame, and concerns about retaliation by the perpetrator or social stigma often led victims to withdraw their complaints or not report the violence at all (Hasam & Islam, 2016; Afrouz et al., 2020). Research by Ashraf et al. (2017) shows that victims tend to experience dissociation, feel powerless, and believe that they will not obtain justice if they confront the authorities or the legal system. Without a deep understanding of these psychological dimensions, legal protection efforts will always lag behind the reality of the victims' suffering.

Inequality of access to justice remains a serious challenge in protecting victims of domestic violence. From a legal perspective, structural barriers are evident in the imbalance of access to legal information and protection facilities. Data from Maula and Ariyanti (2022) reveals that many victims do not understand reporting procedures or victim assistance services due to a lack of socialization or legal education by the government and related institutions. Progressive regulations have not been well socialized, so that victims' rights are often not maximally utilized. Often, bureaucratic complexity and the lack of empathy from officials also discourage victims from pursuing formal legal channels (Caeiro, 2017). Without structural changes and the implementation of a more human-centered approach, the legal system will remain unable to reach the most vulnerable victims.

Unequal power relations are often a major obstacle in victims' efforts to seek justice. In addition, in a number of cases, pressure and persuasion from the perpetrator or extended family place victims in a dilemma. Perpetrators of violence who have social, economic or power positions often use their influence to prevent reporting. The practice of peaceful negotiations without the presence of legal counsel greatly increases the likelihood of revictimization of victims (Badran, 2013; Lassreg, 2018). Victims ultimately accept violence as fate and choose to resign themselves without seeking the justice guaranteed by law. If protection mechanisms cannot counterbalance the perpetrator's dominance, the legal system will remain ineffective in protecting those who need it most.

Religious determination as a source of values and morals has a significant influence in shaping society's response to domestic violence. Religious determinism and dogmatic interpretations also play

a crucial role in supporting or undermining victims' courage to seek legal protection. Yilmaz (2016) highlights that in Muslim-majority communities, there is a dualism between the Sharia's encouragement to create harmonious families and the ambiguity of interpretations regarding women's rights in the household. This dualism is reflected in the tug-of-war between the value of family integrity and the protection of vulnerable family members. Sayuti et al. (2023) show in their analysis that the dynamics of divorce law and social structure transformation must be directed towards creating a family regulatory system that truly protects women and children, overcoming interpretative biases that often sacrifice them in order to maintain the symbol of family integrity. Religious beliefs that position women as parties who must accept certain treatment or that justify the behavior of perpetrators of violence, as well as spiritual beliefs that emphasize that marriage cannot be separated, can cause victims of domestic violence to be reluctant to report it (Mengo et al., 2021). Many religious leaders encourage peaceful resolution on the grounds of preserving family unity, without considering the psychological condition and safety of victims (An-Na'im, 2021). Without a reinterpretation of religious teachings that prioritizes justice and the safety of victims, spiritual values have the potential to be used to justify acts of violence.

The lack of reporting of domestic violence cases is not only a matter of numbers, but also a matter of layered and prolonged impacts. The impact of low reporting rates is a decline in the effectiveness of victim protection. The protection mandated by the Law on the Elimination of Domestic Violence and supported by various advocacy and monitoring institutions is not optimal. The effects of violence in the form of psychological or social trauma tend to be more difficult to heal and may even take a long time. Forms of psychological trauma resulting from violence can include anxiety, low self-esteem, phobias and depression. Further consequences include impaired social functioning and can develop into social welfare issues that require special attention (Fajrini et al., 2018). Counselling services, shelters, free legal aid, and psychological support cannot be accessed if victims close themselves off or are hindered by their environment (Mansour et al., 2020). Unreported cases are prone to recurrence and create a cycle of violence that is increasingly difficult to break. When the courage to report does not grow and the environment does not provide a sense of security, legal protection will only end up as a promise that is never truly felt by the victim.

Low reporting rates not only hinder individual justice but also obscure the macro picture of domestic violence. Low reporting rates also distort national data and statistics, making data-driven public policy and advocacy less precise. Governments and international institutions find it difficult to calculate the actual prevalence of domestic violence. This has an impact on the formulation of prevention and intervention policies that are not on target because they do not reflect the real conditions in society (Ashraf et al., 2017; Amin et al., 2021). If the available data is inaccurate and does not reflect the actual conditions, victim protection strategies have the potential to be misguided and fail to address real needs in the field.

The force of law is not always in line with victims' empowerment in accessing available protection. From a normative legal perspective, the victim protection system has been developed progressively, but implementation in the field is hampered by social and psychological determinants that reinforce resistance to reporting. Formal instruments such as temporary protection letters, legal assistance, and anonymous complaint services are not utilized effectively because victims often view legal proceedings as a new threat to their sense of security and personal dignity (Grijns & Horii, 2018). If the approach used is not sufficiently empathetic and does not adapt to the psychosocial conditions of victims, existing legal instruments will remain far removed from the reality on the ground.

Protecting victims of domestic violence requires coordinated collective efforts across sectors. Another layered issue is the lack of synergy between stakeholders; legal institutions, educational agencies, religious leaders, and community organizations have not been fully united in educating the public about victims' rights and victim-friendly reporting mechanisms. Training for law enforcement officials on victim psychology and gender-based case handling is also uneven, often resulting in revictimization during investigations and trials (Rinaldo, 2014; Wieringa, 2015). If coordination is not strengthened and training is not carried out continuously, the protection system will remain uneven and unable to meet the complex needs of victims.

Addressing domestic violence requires a multidimensional approach that addresses the root causes of social problems and structural weaknesses in the law. Efforts to address domestic violence from a sociological and legal perspective must address the social roots while strengthening the existing legal protection system. Strengthening public education

through educational spaces, communities, and the mass media can help change the perception that domestic violence is a shared concern, not just a private matter. The implementation of the Law on the Elimination of Domestic Violence needs to be encouraged through gender-sensitive training for officials and a comprehensive, victim-friendly protection system that guarantees safety during legal proceedings. With a holistic and sustainable approach, the protection of victims can become part of a more just and humane social transformation.

The success of protecting victims of domestic violence depends heavily on the existence of a strong and responsive social support system. The social support system must be expanded so that victims feel safe when accessing recovery services. Civil society organizations, integrated service centers, and women's and children's protection agencies need to be strengthened through budgetary support and tiered supervision. Integrated education, advocacy, legal protection, and recovery measures will encourage victims to report incidents and take legal action. When social support is tangible and sustainable, victims no longer have to fight for justice alone.

Cultural transformation is an important foundation in building a sustainable victim protection system. Cultural change is a central element, involving community and religious leaders to support a new narrative that domestic violence is a serious violation of human rights, not merely a private conflict. When cultural transformation and legal change occur simultaneously, victims' opportunities to obtain maximum protection will become more accessible, reducing the psychological and social pressures that have long been barriers to reporting. By changing the collective perspective on domestic violence, society can become a safe environment that encourages victims to find the courage to rise up and voice their experiences.

CONCLUSION

Analysis of domestic violence from a sociological and legal perspective shows that victim protection is highly dependent on the harmonization of state regulations, social norms, and religious interpretations in everyday life. Although the Law on the Elimination of Domestic Violence has provided a progressive legal framework, its implementation still faces obstacles due to low legal literacy, patriarchal cultural resistance, and weak synergy between victim protection agencies. It was also found that the main determinants of low reporting rates include social pressure, psychological factors, structural barriers, and the inability of the legal system to provide a sense of security and certainty of protection for victims.

The implications of these findings demand continuous efforts in both the legal sphere and community outreach so that the protection of victims of domestic violence truly becomes a shared priority. Cross-sectoral interventions involving the government, civil society organizations, religious leaders, and the police are crucial. The transformation of values and the instilling of gender equality principles through education at various levels are essential for the protection system to be effective, comprehensive, and sustainable.

Recommendations include strengthening the dissemination of the Domestic Violence Elimination Act down to the grassroots level, enhancing the capacity of gender-based legal and social services, and expanding and strengthening victim support facilities. There needs to be synergy between education, legal advocacy, and cultural change in order to encourage victims to report incidents and ensure that protection rights are accessible in a fair and friendly manner.

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