

Empowering Women: A Reflection on Protecting Against Dating Violence In the Indonesian Context

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ABSTRACT This research delves into the prevalence of dating violence among unmarried women in Indonesia, shedding light on the challenges faced by adolescents in romantic relationships. The study reveals that a substantial portion of women aged 15 to 64, specifically 33.4%, have experienced instances of physical and sexual violence throughout their lives. Notably, sexual violence constitutes a significant share of reported incidents at 34.4%, surpassing physical violence, which accounts for a comparatively lower proportion of 19.6%. The prevalence of sexual violence emerges as a critical concern, demanding focused attention. The findings underscore the urgency for clear legislation addressing violence against women and advocate for the implementation of a comprehensive global strategy to tackle this pervasive issue. Recognizing the alarming statistics, it is imperative to enact and enforce laws that explicitly condemn violence against women, ensuring the safety and well-being of the female population. Moreover, a concerted global effort is essential to address the root causes of dating violence, promoting awareness, education, and prevention. This study serves as a call to action, urging policymakers, activists, and communities to work collaboratively in fostering an environment where women can thrive without fear of violence. By addressing the issue comprehensively, from legal frameworks to societal attitudes, we can pave the way for a safer and more equitable future for women in Indonesia and beyond.

Keywords: Dating Violence, Women Empowerment, Gender Inequality, Legal Protection, Reproductive Health, Feminism

I. INTRODUCTION

Today, dating is common and socially accepted worldwide. Dating violence includes physical, sexual, psychological, and emotional abuse between romantic partners [1]. Indonesia has a high rate of dating violence. Dating violence is the second most common form of personal violence, with 26,629 occurrences reported by Catahu (2023). Note that this statistic may rise annually. From adolescence to young adulthood, romantic relationship qualities vary. These differences include age, duration, quality, hazards, rewards, and relationship termination significance. However, studies on dating violence's prevalence, quality, and effects often ignore these developmental inequalities. Dating relationships change quickly along with social and sexual settings, including views toward varied sexual activities [2].

Unauthorized body attack is the main kind of physical violence. Physical violence is "foremost and primary" because it underpins non-physical violence. It is essential to recognize that each person is unique and that our bodies can only endure so much pain [3]. These behaviours are hazardous because the potential for bodily harm is sometimes more significant than the actual harm. Physical aggression reinforces the social definition of psychological anguish. When forced, separation can be upsetting. Our inner anguish must be expressed in a tangible way that genuinely depicts the terrible mistreatment. We can improve our linguistic

expressions by using vivid and emotive words like “piercing grief,” “a burden that weighs heavily on the soul,” and “a heart that is shattered.” Symptoms often manifest physically, supporting analogies.

Only in the past decade has sociology begun to understand violence, notably its physical aspects [4]. The origins of this approach are still being determined. Sociologists study physical violence holistically to understand its causes. Formulating questions about what to observe involves a series of suggested hypotheses about likely sources or locations for the desired information or object. These concepts claim that modern violence is linked to cause-and-effect priority. Violence may be helpful as a strategy, a symptom of psychological conditions, or a trait of certain groups. Violence is often accepted as a tool. Violence is stigmatized, as often acknowledged, but in a more subtle way to demonstrate specific goals and legitimacy frameworks [5]. Indeed, romantic relationships evolve differently from early infancy to young adulthood. These inequalities include age, chronological factors, relationship duration and quality, risks and benefits, and relationship termination significance [6]. However, research on the prevalence, quality, and effects of intimate partner aggression or violence often ignores these developmental differences. Additionally, romantic relationships change quickly along with adolescent social and sexual environments. Study in [7] noted that these changes include perceptions of varied sexual practices.

Different types of aggression are often linked to individuals’ experiences as offenders or victims. Physical hostility toward peers decreases in young adulthood. This decrease reduces the likelihood of physical aggressiveness in relationships. However, relational aggressiveness and victimization remain or increase in this age group, particularly among men [8]. Physical and non-physical aggression vary by age group, highlighting the need to study non-physical expressions of antagonism in romantic relationships. Non-physical dating violence can incite physical violence, emphasizing the need for prevention. Unhealthy romantic relationships often involve rage, emotional abuse, disrespect, social isolation from friends and family, threats and intimidation, shifting responsibility, humiliation, and sexual coercion. These activities may damage interpersonal relationships, affecting respect, security, communication, autonomy, trust, and well-being [9]. To predict and explain violence in teenage dating relationships, one must understand various forms of aggression [10]. These may include physical, psychological, relational, or controlling aggression in early, middle, and late adolescence, as well as young adulthood, and in specific relationship phases (initiation, sustenance, and termination). The development also occurs in a society with changing sexual behavioural standards and social media technology, which affects dating. Dating has become more complicated due to early sexual exploration, oral sexual activities, casual encounters, explicit messages, sexual relationships without commitment, and alcohol use. Cultural and communication factors affect dating relationships and violence in private and public. Social networking, mobile phones, instant messaging, image apps, pornography, and video streaming services have all had an impact.

Many criminological theories try to explain why adolescents engage in delinquent behaviour and why teens and adults act aggressively. These theories also study the social factors that affect violent crime rates. These issues are unrelated to interpersonal abuse in partnerships. Hence, this chapter does not discuss them. However, at least two criminological models explain partner abuse. Study in [11] introduced “routine activity theory” and relationship abuse. The routine activity idea states that perpetrators’ regular acts drive interpersonal violence crimes. These activities cover people’s daily routines, including destinations, timing, environment, and context. Teenage aggressiveness might be caused by poor supervision or no alert guardians [12]. This approach also emphasizes that informal social control is the primary method of crime prevention, with law enforcement only having a role when societal norms fail [11].

II. UNRAVELLING THE DYNAMICS OF DATING VIOLENCE: EXPLORING THE DEPTHS OF RELATIONSHIP AGGRESSION

Dating is a common term for the various stages of building and maintaining romantic relationships [13]. Youth begins this romantic process, which lasts into adulthood. The conventional view of dating as a fun, romantic, and easy pastime belies its complexity and problems. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, women aged 16–24 are most vulnerable to romantic partner abuse [14]. Females who have experienced partner-inflicted physical violence as adolescents are more likely to experience it in college. In the context of early intimate relationship building, adolescent years play a significant role in dating and introduction rituals.

Dating develops social and interpersonal skills by exploring intimate social relationships, gender roles, communication patterns, and problem-solving [15]. However, adolescents, due to their immaturity and lack of experience, sometimes use less socially constructive methods to resolve relationship conflicts, such as verbal insults or physical aggression. Additionally, unhealthy romantic relationships in adolescence can have serious consequences. Adolescent girls who report physical or sexual abuse by their male partners are twice as likely to smoke, drink, or use illegal drugs, as well as have disordered eating symptoms like overeating and purging. Thus, dating partner perception and treatment are crucial to understanding social, cultural, and developmental aspects that cause dating violence. Dating violence is clearly essential and has a history and societal aspects that distinguish it from domestic violence [16].

Approximately one-third of youth violence occurs in dating relationships. Violence is expected to occur multiple times in a year. The National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health found that 61% of boys and 66% of females aged 15 had romantic relationships in the previous eighteen months. Many 15-year-olds will experience romantic partner violence, which raises concerns. A study of eighth- and ninth-graders found that 25% reported nonsexual violence in their dating relationships. A significant 8% of the sample reported sexual assault in dating relationships. A countrywide study on adolescent dating violence found that 32% of teens reported experiencing violence in the 18 months prior to the interview [17]. Twelve per cent of survey respondents reported experiencing physical violence, typically with psychological anger. Both men and women experience dating violence in academic environments. A survey found that 20–40% of people had one or more attacks in the past year. Another study examined Chinese American and white college students who were victimized. This study recruited psychology and ethnic studies, students. The study examined physical violence in student dating relationships since their start. Chinese-American students started dating at 16, compared to fifteen for white students. Chinese American students reported 20% physical violence in dating relationships, compared to 31% for white students. With the average age of Chinese American and white students being twenty and twenty-two, it is interesting to evaluate dating violence over five to seven years. Such cases seem familiar [18].

Physical aggression in love relationships can range from slaps and shoves to severe injuries or death [19]. Perpetrators use many psychological methods to control and coerce victims. Abusers use insults and manipulation to undermine their victims' self-esteem by humiliating and shaming them. Perpetrators may coerce victims into illegal behaviours like theft and threaten to denounce them, infringing on their autonomy. Teenage relationship abusers often coerce victims by exposing their sexual secrets. This deliberate tactic humiliates the victim in front of their parents and blames them for violence. However, the abuser always rejects responsibility [20]. Several behaviours indicate stalking, a kind of violence. Harmful people may monitor their victims, isolate them during social encounters, or use physical threats or violence to enforce their demands. Sexual violence in dating includes coercing partners into sexual activity, physically assaulting their genitals, and sexually objectifying them. Male power over females often makes abusers think their victims must have sexual relations with them [21].

Due to their limited life experiences and sexuality education, adolescent girls may be unaware of sexual assault. Therefore, individuals may have trouble distinguishing consenting sexual interactions from abusive ones. Conversely, adolescent boys may be pressured by peers to learn sexual skills to fit patriarchal standards of "masculinity," which may increase their tendency to engage in abusive or coercive sexual conduct [22]. Sexual assault, physical violence, and psychological violence make victims more susceptible to manipulation, making them less able to reject coerced sexual behaviour. The idea that people in relationships can leave at will makes victims feel weak and vulnerable, making them blame themselves for the violence they face [9].

In addition, dating violence can be identified when perpetrators pursue rapid engagement in the relationship, harbour impractical expectations, isolate their partners, engage in object damage or physical aggression, have a history of violence, blame others for their problems, and use any form of violence during disputes with their partners. Violence lowers victims' self-esteem and causes self-hatred, making them more susceptible to addictive and violent relationships because they feel undeserving. In exchange for love and support, victims must please the abuser's desires and ignore their own needs [9].

Adolescents may face pressure from parents and friends to stay in a relationship. These influential institutions often want victims to live independently, perform relationship duties, and form lasting love relationships. In order to protect themselves from partner abuse, victims may acquiesce to the abuser's demands, conceal violence from loved ones, and even hide victimization from their social circle. Violence

during or during pregnancy can harm the mother and the fetus. Dating violence victims may use prescription or illegal drugs to cope. They may also attempt suicide to halt the violence or relieve the tension [23].

Psychological dating violence harms victims as much as physical or sexual assault. Psychological violence in romantic relationships is widely recognized as harmful, although its definition is disputed. Despite their intangible nature, psychological damage can cause lifelong suffering. Romantic partnerships often involve psychological violence. Over 75% of female college students experience psychological abuse in six months, according to research. The majority (91%) encounter emotional aggression in relationships [24].

Sexual harassment in dating is common. In a countrywide poll of college women, 54% reported having experienced sexual aggressiveness from a dating partner since age 14 [24]. Dating violence is stigmatized; thus, it is often not reported. Victims often blame themselves for initiating violence. Unfortunately, social beliefs about rape, such as blaming victims based on their clothes or perceived promiscuity, prevent dating violence victims from reporting sexual harassment and violent events [25].

The concept of dating violence is formed by social, cultural/racial, political, familial, legal, geographical/regional, and personal factors. Current definitions of "dating" include forming dyadic romantic partnerships for socializing and sharing experiences. The process of forming romantic relationships between two people, regardless of sexual orientation or age, is called 'dating.' Dating continues until one or both parties break up or the relationship develops into cohabitation, engagement, or marriage. Dating relationships can be exclusive and monogamous or non-exclusive, depending on social conventions. These dyadic romantic interactions are called "casual encounters," "socializing," or, more formally, "courtship." Dating relationships are based on equality or reciprocity, where both parties can emotionally invest in the partnership [26].

Dating violence can include physical, verbal, and psychological abuse. Except for sexual abuse, dating violence is harmful behaviour toward a partner. Pushing, tripping, slapping, striking, and kicking are examples [27]. Dating violence can progress to violent beatings, which can range from minor injuries to life-threatening threats. Verbal and psychological abuse includes threats and the use of weapons like knives, firearms, objects, or other potential injuries to intimidate and control the victim. Dating violence can be a one-time issue or a regular pattern in resolving issues. Violence often shows power and control dynamics in relationships and can be influenced by earlier experiences or exposure to intimate partner violence, such as parental domestic abuse. Dating violence research focuses on heterosexual dating violence as a problem definition. To widen dating violence research, violence in homosexual or lesbian partnerships is included in alternate classifications [28].

Personal information is shared, revealing each person's strengths and weaknesses. According to some, these intimate relationships foster violent conduct. Dating and domestic violence include power and control [29]. Violence perpetrators use threats, verbal manipulation, insults, and physical and sexual violence to control their intimate relationships. Dating and domestic violence victims face similar hurdles while trying to leave abusive relationships. In both cases, victims may still love their perpetrators and hope for their transformation. Given the risk of bodily damage and even death that comes with ending a relationship, dating violence and domestic abuse victims generally fear reprisals.

III. UNVEILING THE REALITY: DATING VIOLENCE AS A HARSH TRUTH IN INDONESIA

Based on the data provided by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2010, it can be observed that around one-third of women globally encounter instances of violence, encompassing both physical and sexual forms. In developed nations, it is observed that a significant proportion of women, approximately 25%, encounter instances of violence. In certain African and Asian nations, the prevalence of violence targeting women is notably elevated, reaching over 37%. The presented data demonstrates the gravity of violence against women, highlighting the urgent need for attention and intervention. Such acts of violence significantly impede women's overall well-being and their ability to engage in future developmental endeavours actively [30].

Violence can be understood as a manifestation of an inherent imbalance in the gender roles of men and women, resulting in the establishment of power dynamics that perpetuate domination and discrimination, thus impeding the growth of women. Women encounter several forms of violence, including physical violence, emotional or psychological abuse, economic violence, and violence that restricts their activities. Of those above, sexual violence exhibits the highest prevalence, constituting 38% of the total [31].

In response to the significant prevalence of violence, the government, particularly the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection, partnered with the Central Statistics Agency to undertake the National Survey on Women's Life Experiences in 2016. The primary objective of the study was to collect data pertaining

to the encounters of females aged 15 years and older who have been subjected to acts of violence. Research findings indicate that a significant proportion of women between the ages of 15 and 64, precisely 33.4%, have encountered instances of physical and sexual violence throughout their lifespan. Among these incidents, physical violence constitutes 18.1% of cases, while sexual violence accounts for 24.2% of the reported occurrences.

Within the realm of violence perpetrated against women, it has been observed that the prevalence of both physical and sexual violence is recorded at a rate of 42.7% among unmarried women. Unmarried women exhibit a higher prevalence of sexual violence, accounting for 34.4% of reported incidents, in contrast to physical violence, which constitutes a comparatively lower proportion of 19.6%. The presented data illustrates that a significant number of unmarried women are subjected to acts of violence, with the perpetrators often being those in intimate relationships, such as boyfriends, acquaintances, colleagues, neighbours, and so forth. Nevertheless, it is essential to note that instances of such violence can also be perpetrated by individuals who are unfamiliar to the victim.

The elevated prevalence of violence has emerged as a significant issue for the broader community, with particular attention being directed on the escalating apprehension surrounding dating violence targeting unmarried women. According to the 2016 Symphony of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection, a total of 10,847 individuals were identified as perpetrators of violence. Among these perpetrators, 2,090 were identified as those who had a relationship with the victims, such as boyfriends or friends.

Dating violence refers to the occurrence of violent acts perpetrated against individuals who are in unmarried partnerships. These acts encompass several forms of violence, such as physical, emotional, and economic aggression, as well as the restriction of activities. The occurrence of this form of violence frequently follows instances of domestic violence, although it has not garnered an equivalent level of attention as domestic violence. It is occasionally disregarded by both the individuals who experience it and those who perpetrate it [32].

In the context of dating relationships in Indonesia, various manifestations of violence against women might be observed. Instances of physical aggression encompassing behaviours such as striking, slapping, kicking, shoving, forcibly seizing the partner's body, and other forms of physical violence. Emotional or psychological violence encompasses various forms of abusive behaviour, including but not limited to making threats, employing derogatory language, and belittling the partner. Economic violence includes behaviours such as coercing a partner to assume sole responsibility for all living expenditures and engaging in the exploitation or depletion of the partner's possessions. Sexual violence encompasses a range of non-consensual acts, including but not limited to physical contact such as hugging, kissing, and touching, as well as the coercive imposition of sexual intercourse through the use of threats or intimidation.

The limitation of activity Partner violence frequently has a lasting impact on women in the context of dating, manifesting in behaviours such as excessive possessiveness, excessive restrictions, frequent suspicion, complete control over activities, a propensity for anger, and the use of threats.

A significant number of women lack awareness of their entrapment within the confines of activity restriction violence, perceiving it as a customary occurrence and a manifestation of care and affection from their intimate relationships.

Numerous elements contribute to the occurrence of violence against women inside partnerships. Factors contributing to the prevalence of violence in intimate relationships encompass various elements. These encompass but are not limited to limited educational attainment, the perpetuation of patriarchal ideologies, engagement in detrimental behaviours such as substance abuse and excessive alcohol consumption, a lack of emotional regulation leading to confrontations, instances where women initiate aggressive acts, instances of infidelity, unemployment of partners, volatile dispositions, exposure to violence during formative years either through personal experience or witnessing, socioeconomic status, residing in urban areas, close affiliation with social networks that endorse violence, and the influence of violent media content [33].

In contrast, when examining instances of interpersonal violence, it is seen that female victims often exhibit characteristics of vulnerability, low self-confidence, and a profound emotional attachment to their spouses. Following instances of violence, numerous partners exhibit notable transformations, wherein they demonstrate remorse, offer apologies, pledge to refrain from engaging in such conduct, and display affectionate behaviour towards the victim. This phenomenon prompts women to exhibit forgiveness and tolerance towards their partner's behaviours, subsequently opting to restore the relationship to its previous state. Nevertheless, those

who exhibit a proclivity for engaging in aggressive behaviour towards their romantic partner are prone to persist in such conduct since it is inherent to their disposition and method of addressing conflicts or challenges.

Relationship violence gives rise to a range of repercussions, encompassing adverse health outcomes and psychological disorders experienced by women who are victimized. Women who are subjected to physical or sexual violence within intimate relationships face a heightened risk of health complications, with a 1.5-fold increase in likelihood. The physical ramifications may encompass contusions, fractures, and, notably, enduring impairments. Psychological consequences encompass a range of adverse outcomes, such as emotional distress, diminished self-worth, feelings of shame and self-reproach, apprehension over potential harm, cognitive disarray, heightened anxiety, impaired confidence in oneself and others, feelings of culpability, elevated levels of depressive symptoms, and even contemplation of self-inflicted harm [34].

The management of initiatives aimed at addressing interpersonal violence against women encompasses the provision of assistance, the promotion of assertiveness in rejecting and resisting all forms of violence perpetrated by their partners, and the facilitation of self-esteem development. Individuals who have experienced trauma may necessitate tailored treatment from mental health professionals such as psychiatrists, psychologists, or early support providers [35].

Efforts aimed at addressing individuals who engage in violent behaviour entail the identification of underlying factors that contribute to their actions, including an examination of any prior traumatic experiences that may have precipitated their propensity for violence. It is advisable to seek counselling or psychotherapy services from psychologists or psychiatrists in order to facilitate the perpetrators' understanding of the hazards and consequences associated with their behaviours, both for themselves and their partners.

In order to mitigate and combat instances of violence against women, the government has enacted a range of measures, encompassing legislative actions, with a specific emphasis on the "Three Ends" program:

1. the cessation of violence against women and children
2. the eradication of human trafficking
3. the elimination of economic disparities faced by women

Furthermore, several communication, information, and educational endeavours are directed at disseminating knowledge and promoting understanding of women's rights throughout Indonesian society. Enhancing the efficacy of institutional functions at the village level, augmenting the responsibilities of the Women and Children Protection Task Force, and securing backing from various stakeholders, such as Ministries/Agencies, Local Governments, and Community Institutions, are pivotal measures.

The government offers a range of services to support women who have experienced abuse, encompassing complaint mechanisms, healthcare provisions, legal aid, law enforcement efforts, social rehabilitation programs, social reintegration initiatives, and the accompaniment of religious figures. The provision of complaint services constitutes the most significant proportion, accounting for 1,655 services or 37 per cent, followed by health services with 830 services or 19 per cent. Legal assistance and law enforcement are also considered high-volume services, with 681 and 677 services supplied, respectively.

IV. UNRAVELING THE DYNAMICS OF DATING VIOLENCE REGULATION

Dating violence is a significant social and public health concern that impacts adolescents across different regions globally, leading to detrimental effects on their educational attainment, physical well-being, and social and interpersonal relationships [36]. The significance of this study is in its recognition of adolescence as a critical period characterized by fast identity formation, during which shifting gender roles have the potential to be perpetuated in adult relationships. According to Exner-Cortens et al. [37], it is widely acknowledged that dating violence serves as a precursor to intimate partner violence among adults. The present study adopts the following definitions for the terms "adolescent." Specifically, adolescence is defined as the developmental period spanning from 10 to 19 years, as stipulated by the WHO in 2021. Different types of violence are encompassed within the construct of dating violence. Among minors, psychological violence emerges as the predominant form of dating violence, as indicated by reported cases, followed by physical and sexual assault [38]. Additionally, violence and control in the online realm are also recognized as significant aspects of dating violence [39].

Extensive scholarly inquiry pertaining to adolescents has yielded substantial findings indicating that beliefs surrounding domestic violence and conventional gender stereotypes play a pivotal role in the manifestation of

this societal concern [40]. Nevertheless, there is a scarcity of research that delves into the social norms that underlie the attitudes and beliefs that fuel violence within romantic relationships. Moreover, it is worth noting that the majority of research conducted on the attitudes of Latin American adolescents involves participants who are not currently residing in their countries of origin [41]. A noteworthy constraint is the limited understanding among Latin American teenagers residing in southern countries regarding the definition of dating violence and its distinguishing characteristics. This is particularly significant given the heightened exposure of this population to elevated levels of violence and numerous social and gender disparities, which can potentially shape their encounters with and interpretations of dating violence [42].

In the context of Indonesia, the absence of explicit restrictions can be attributed to the absence of legally recognized unions. Nevertheless, it is essential to note that the overall condition of women in the country is a matter of concern. A significant number of women across the globe experience impoverished living conditions, endure the threat of violence in both public and private spheres, and face the deprivation of fundamental rights as a result of their gender. In various regions across the globe, women encounter limited agency in determining the course of events pertaining to their own lives and physical autonomy. A significant number of individuals are compelled to enter into marriages at a young age, assume the financial responsibility of migrant labour or engage in prostitution, and encounter the risk of mortality due to inadequate safeguards for reproductive rights and access to healthcare facilities, as evidenced by the elevated incidence of maternal deaths.

The incidence of violence against women demonstrates a consistent upward trend throughout time. This phenomenon is evident in a multitude of media reports and statistics gathered by community organizations that offer assistance to women who have experienced abuse. Since 1996, LBH-APIK Jakarta has been responsible for managing cases of violence, which have exhibited a consistent upward trend. The recorded number of cases has progressively escalated, commencing at 90 cases in 1996, followed by 240 cases in 1997, 227 cases in 1998, 343 cases in 2000, 471 cases in 2001, 530 cases in 2002, 627 cases in 2003, culminating in 817 cases in 2004, and reaching a peak of 1046 cases in 2005. The cases typically addressed encompass instances of domestic abuse and sexual assault, including acts such as rape, harassment, molestation, and incest.

Indonesia, by the enactment of Law No.7 of 1984, has ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). This global agreement has garnered ratification from 177 countries. Nevertheless, although the legally obligatory character of the CEDAW, the issue of gender-based discrimination against women remains prevalent. The CEDAW, which the United Nations Committee adopted on the Status of Women after the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), seeks to advance the principle of substantive equality between genders throughout several domains of human existence. The items pertaining to civic, cultural, economic, political, and social domains reflect the areas of focus in all facets of life.

Despite the ratification of the Convention by the Indonesian government in 1984, there has yet to be much progress in addressing discriminatory legislation and challenging societal preconceptions. The policies pertaining to this matter are perceived as a comprehensive framework, encompassing not only the text and substance of relevant legal policies and judgments but also the organizational and personnel structure of governmental institutions. This phenomenon also encompasses cultural dimensions inside society, including customary practices, ethical principles, ideological convictions, and interpretations of particular doctrines that hold sway within the community.

The present circumstances present a novel peril to women. The proliferation of regulatory measures, encompassing both national policies like the Pornography and Pornoaction Bill, as well as regional legislation pertaining to vices, dress standards, curfews for women, and similar matters, has become more prevalent due to the adoption of regional autonomy. These instances perpetuate gender stereotypes that marginalize women, constraining them to domestic roles and subjecting their bodies and sexuality to state-sanctioned regulation and control.

Moreover, women, by virtue of their gender, continue to be susceptible to a wide range of gender-based violence. In specific contexts, such as instances of ethnic or religious tensions or as a result of their marginalized social position, as exemplified by domestic workers or women engaged in sex worker who are subjected to exploitative regimes, the circumstances deteriorate. This assertion holds for women of varying sexual orientations who encounter marginalization within their communities, as well as those who endure violence within their love partnerships, a subject that is seen as socially unacceptable according to religious norms in Indonesia.

Victims of violence within romantic relationships may undergo traumatic experiences, which can manifest in various symptoms, including but not limited to dread, anxiety, suspicion, cynical attitudes, stress, loneliness, and other related reactions. Women who experience violence within their romantic relationships, particularly in the context of sexual abuse, may endure a pervasive sense of fear that significantly impacts their behaviour. This anxiety can manifest in several ways, such as the development of sleeplessness and reliance on sleeping aids and tranquillizers as coping mechanisms. In the absence of adequate protection and a feeling of security, their safety becomes vulnerable.

Adolescents exhibit a higher tendency to conceal instances of violence within their romantic relationships compared to adults. Furthermore, a significant proportion of teenage victims fail to access essential mental health treatments, seek refuge, or avail themselves of legal remedies, such as pursuing legal action against the perpetrators of violence or obtaining protection orders. This issue is further intensified for guys who have survived, as they are twice as unlikely as their female counterparts to seek assistance or make a report. Adolescents frequently rely on their peers rather than adults or formal reporting mechanisms when seeking assistance regarding violence within their romantic relationships [43].

Within the context of romantic relationships, the one who experiences adverse consequences is commonly referred to as the victim. At the same time, the perpetrator is the party responsible for exploiting or inflicting harm on the victim within the confines of said relationship. The victim of dating experiences several forms of losses, encompassing physical, psychological, moral, material, sexual, and other dimensions. Understanding these losses provides insight into the hazards of engaging in romantic relationships. Victims of dating violence are not to blame since they are in an unhealthy relationship. This is typically related to patriarchal culture. Hentig [44] suggests several possible actions by a victim in a crime: The victim intentionally commits the crime; The victim can use the impact of losses due to violence to gain an advantage; Some losses by the victim may involve cooperation between the victim and the perpetrator; and Provocation efforts by the victim.

The level of guilt can be established by studying the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator. Mendelsohn [45] specifically explains several levels of victim fault in five categories: Completely innocent; A victim due to their negligence; Equally at fault as the perpetrator; More at fault than the perpetrator; and The victim is the only one at fault (in which case the perpetrator is acquitted). Additionally, there are several categories of victims based on the target of the perpetrator. Direct victims are individuals who are the reflexive target of the perpetrator's actions, and Indirect victims are individuals who are not directly targeted by the perpetrator but experience suffering and distress.

Victims in romantic relationships serve a functional role in cases of violence. The behaviours of the perpetrator might cause the partner, the other party in the relationship, to become a victim. This is crucial to Samuel Walker's [46] notion that the relationship between victims and perpetrators of violence in romantic relationships is a cause-and-effect reaction. The actions of the perpetrator might produce agony and anguish in the victim, hampering productivity in their life. In contrast, the victim may feel burdened by the trauma of violence they have suffered.

Compiling or selecting theories that can anticipate abusive actions in romantic relationships becomes a challenging endeavour due to the lack of a consistently acknowledged definition of "abuse in romantic relationships" among academics. What one person deems "dating abuse" may differ significantly from what another person also identifies as "abuse in romantic relationships," depending on how they characterize numerous underlying concerns. The fundamental question is what activities should be classified as abuse in romantic relationships, and should all actions be included, independent of the perpetrator and the consequences? Intimate partner violence encompasses physical, sexual, verbal, and emotional abuse directed towards a current or former partner, can occur in same-sex or opposite-sex relationships, and can take place anywhere, "ranging from a single incident that may or may not have long-term effects to chronic and severe incidents over the years". "Intimate partner violence" is not the same phenomenon as chronic, severe violence that causes physical or sexual harm inflicted by someone with greater social authority over their partner with lesser social power (e.g., male to female, citizen to undocumented immigrant, etc.). The idea that a single strike without causing an impact on the victim may be deemed abuse in a romantic relationship is controversial; advocacy movements often define partner violence as something involving the "power and control" of one spouse over the other [47].

Partner violence, as written by Johnson, is a subtype of partner abuse he initially dubbed "patriarchal terrorism" and eventually referred to as intimate terrorism [48]. However, Johnson also believes that not all

violence occurring in a relationship should be called the same. In addition to intimate terrorism (also called “coercive controlling violence”), he proposes that we consider other subtypes of partner violence, including situational couple violence, the violence triggered by separation, and resistance violence, as separate phenomena [49]. It should be noted that Johnson's proposed typology of partner violence is not the only one; there are many other alternatives, including those questioning the Idea that there is one “victim” and one “perpetrator” in violent couples [50].

Exploring the Idea that what we commonly refer to as “domestic violence” might more appropriately be labelled with one of Johnson's more specific categories and seeking separate explanations for each is the recognition that there is no single cause-and-effect explanation that can account for the behaviour of all perpetrators. This is owing to the variety of causes influencing each human behaviour from person to person. For example, some persons may excessively consume alcohol due to stress, utilizing it as a coping method. In contrast, others may indulge in excessive alcohol drinking for the delight of socializing and the unconstrained feelings it gives. Naturally, the cause-and-effect explanations for these two groups of persons are different [51]. The same applies to domestic violence: some may use violence in relationships since they generally tend to be violent and attack everyone who annoys them; others may never resort to violence against anyone save their close partners. It is unreasonable to believe that there is only one explanation for all perpetrators of domestic violence—now commonly accepted is that there are various cause-and-effect explanations for each individual.

Article 351 of the Indonesian Criminal Code serves as the foundation for addressing assault-related offences. This article explains punishments for assault, taking into account the severity of the conduct and its repercussions. However, the efficiency of these rules in treating interpersonal violence in Indonesia raises concerns, warranting a critical analysis of their strengths and weaknesses. The provisions of Article 351 are explicit: imprisonment for up to two years and eight months or a fine of up to four thousand five hundred rupiahs for assault. For cases resulting in significant injury, the sentence increases to imprisonment for up to five years. In circumstances when assault leads to death, the criminal faces a maximum of seven years in jail. Notably, purposeful harm is equated with assault, whereas mere effort to conduct the crime is judged non-punishable.

Despite the supposedly comprehensive character of Article 351, problems remain in its applicability to domestic violence. The sanctions provided may be seen as lenient, thus failing to operate as a deterrence or provide enough justice for victims. The maximum punishments for assault, even in circumstances of significant injuries or death, might not appropriately reflect the gravity of the incident or assess the enduring impact on victims. Furthermore, Article 351 lacks clarification addressing violence within intimate relationships. Relationship violence contains unique dynamics, including power imbalances and emotional considerations, which existing legal provisions may not appropriately address. The absence of specialized legislation for relationship violence may result in insufficient legal responses and protections for victims negotiating the complexities of intimate partner abuse.

Additionally, the exclusion of psychological and emotional factors in Article 351 undermines a holistic understanding of relationship violence. These types of abuse are fundamental components of intimate relationship violence, and their omission from legal considerations may limit the protection and remedies accessible to victims who endure non-physical forms of harm. The rule saying that an attempt to commit assault is not penalized raises difficulties, particularly in the context of interpersonal violence. Failing to understand the gravity of the motivation behind the attempt may prevent early intervention, potentially allowing violence to escalate within intimate relationships. Reconsideration of this rule is essential to guarantee a more proactive legal strategy in preventing rising violence.

A case sample involving a defendant with the initials NK demonstrates potential shortcomings in handling relationship violence. Focusing simply on the act of assault may overlook the broader context of attempted rape and the power relationships within the relationship. A more nuanced legal framework is necessary to adequately handle the complexity of interpersonal abuse and offer justice to victims. Article 285 of the Criminal Code, addressing sexual violence, also displays inadequacies. The maximum penalty of twelve years may not appropriately reflect the gravity of the offence, especially considering the significant and permanent damage to the victim's physical and emotional well-being. A reconsideration of punishments for sexual assault within the context of relationship violence is necessary to guarantee effective deterrence and protection for victims.

While Articles 352, 353, and 354 provide punishments for various forms of assault, their effectiveness in preventing interpersonal violence remains uncertain. The sanctions may not proportionately meet the harm

inflicted, and the lack of explicit clauses addressing relationship dynamics may limit their applicability in cases of intimate partner abuse. While the Indonesian Criminal Code includes provisions linked to assault and violence, there are substantial limitations in handling relationship violence comprehensively. The prescribed penalties may be seen as inadequate, and the lack of specific provisions for relationship violence, emotional abuse, and attempts to conduct assault raises issues about the appropriateness of legal responses and protections for victims inside romantic relationships. Reforms and changes to these laws are necessary to ensure a more effective and comprehensive legal framework for resolving relationship violence in Indonesia, reflecting the developing understanding of intimate partner dynamics and the varied types of harm suffered by victims.

V. UNRAVELLING THE THREADS: EXPLORING GENDER DYNAMICS IN DATING VIOLENCE

The feminist movement of the early 1970s facilitated the recognition and acknowledgement of violence occurring inside domestic settings, amongst individuals, and within romantic relationships [52]. Feminist scholars posit that relationship violence can be attributed to various fundamental factors, namely patriarchy as a manifestation of power dynamics and male dominance over women, cultural norms that perpetuate male superiority, and the perception of dependency and equality as challenges to male hegemony [53]. Perpetrators frequently experience a compulsion to exert control and dominance over their partners, resulting in the manifestation of jealousy and feelings of insecurity. Any societal stigma does not accompany dating violence, and it can manifest through the perpetuation of dominant behaviour as depicted in various forms of media. As an illustration, an individual exhibiting aggressive inclinations may endeavour to exert influence over their partner's modes of communication, attire choices, and conduct in their presence as well as in the company of others.

In contrast to married couples, the absence of emotional intimacy and the victim's limited financial autonomy in dating relationships pose challenges in comprehending the occurrence of dating violence and the reasons behind a victim's decision to remain in such a relationship [54]. Nevertheless, scholars contend that the aetiology of dating violence bears resemblance to that of domestic violence. In both manifestations of violence, a spectrum of abusive behaviours can be observed, encompassing emotional and verbal intimidation, sexual assault, and even homicide. In certain instances, individuals who have experienced dating violence may perceive such behaviour as normative, or they may lack awareness regarding the existence of official groups that can assist [55].

There exist two divergent perspectives regarding the enigma of gender equality. The theoretical framework on gender-based violence posits that within intimate or romantic relationships, there exists an asymmetry in the perpetration of violence, predominantly carried out by males against women [56]. Patriarchal power dynamics and the desire for control primarily drive this violence [57]. On the contrary, the gender equality hypothesis posits that there is a similarity in the rates of physical aggression among intimate partners, including teenage dating partners. This approach posits that physical violence within intimate partner relationships is predominantly reciprocal, arising from comparable goals and situational clues. Consequently, it leads to the shared experience of negative emotions and the display of aggressive conduct among young men and women [58].

The family unit also serves as a platform for cultivating attitudes and beliefs pertaining to conventional gender norms. From a feminist standpoint, the presence of male control inside the familial structure can be understood as an integral component of a larger male-centric power structure. The occurrence of violence inside the family can be attributed to the inclination of men to establish or uphold dominance, and instances of violence may arise when this dominance is contested. Moreover, it is worth noting that children who are exposed to violence inside their family unit tend to adopt inflexible and stereotyped notions regarding gender roles. For example, there exists a societal perception that women possess traits such as being soft-spoken and weak, whereas males are commonly associated with characteristics of dominance and competitiveness. This perception is believed to reflect the prevailing power dynamics in interpersonal relationships, where men typically have higher influence, and women are more inclined to accept and conform to this power disparity [53].

Additional illustrations of gender role attitudes and beliefs encompass perspectives such as “the domestic sphere is the appropriate domain for women,” “women should not anticipate equal access or comparable autonomy as men,” and “fathers should wield superior power to mothers in the upbringing of children.” In a

recent prospective study conducted on adolescent males, it was observed that the association between traditional gender role relationships and domestic violence gains significance when accompanied by a disposition of acceptance towards domestic violence. Nevertheless, this study did not investigate the potential origins of exposure to family violence within the familial setting.

Gender inequality is frequently identified as a significant contributing factor to the prevalence of violence targeting women and girls [59]. The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women in 1993, as recognized by the United Nations General Assembly, acknowledges that violence against women is a symptom of historical power imbalances between genders. The fundamental factor contributing to violence against women is gender inequality, which serves as the underlying principle for a prevention strategy adopted by several organizations, including the WHO, UNICEF, and the USAID. These investments are undertaken with the premise that enhancing gender equality can contribute to the prevention of violence against women and girls. Consequently, it is imperative to examine the available research that substantiates this correlation critically.

It is crucial to bear in mind that dating violence constitutes a manifestation of intimate partner violence, which transpires within the context of present or past romantic relationships. This form of violence encompasses various types, such as physical, sexual, psychological, or emotional abuse, and may also involve stalking behaviours. Considerable scholarly attention has been directed towards investigating the correlation between gender inequality and its manifold consequences on health, social dynamics, and economic outcomes [60]. However, there is a dearth of studies explicitly examining the phenomenon of dating violence. The current body of scholarly literature pertaining to gender inequality and partner violence primarily concentrates on the adult demographic and frequently adopts a global perspective. Hence, the methodology employed in this chapter is all-encompassing, adopting a worldwide outlook in order to comprehend the correlation between gender disparity and instances of dating violence. Additionally, it also examines other associated manifestations, including adult partner violence and sexual violence [61]. Despite the notable distinctions between dating relationships among adults and adolescents, such as power dynamics, the development of social skills, and the influence of peers [62], the limited research on gender inequality and dating violence necessitates the utilization of literature pertaining to adults in order to establish a historical backdrop and an initial framework for comprehending the consequences within teenage relationships.

Despite advancements in women's health, education, workforce participation, economic involvement, and political representation in recent years, a persistent gender hierarchy that favours men remains prevalent [63]. The presence of resistance towards gender inequality can be attributed, in part, to several elements within different layers of social ecology. Scholars contend that the persistent disparity between women and men can be attributed, in part, to conventional beliefs regarding gender roles [64]. Gender role attitudes, also known as sex role attitudes or gender ideologies, pertain to people's endorsement or disapproval of conventional gender roles or societal norms on suitable conduct for males and females, including children [65]. The prevailing views discussed in this context typically revolve around the notions of femininity and masculinity. These attitudes are commonly understood as being on a spectrum, with traditional attitudes on one end and egalitarian attitudes on the other [66]. Individuals who hold conventional perspectives advocate for the allocation of family responsibilities based on gender, wherein women are regarded as homemakers primarily responsible for childcare. At the same time, males are considered breadwinners and decision-makers.

VI. EMPOWERING WOMEN: SAFEGUARDING AGAINST DATING VIOLENCE IN THE FUTURE

Many of the currently conducted research has the potential to be broadened in order to assess other indicators that may have a more substantial impact. This is particularly true in industrialized nations or in countries that advocate for gender equality, both of which may have smaller disparities in specific indicators between states or communities (such as the ratio of males to females at birth). For instance, the degree to which a nation offers legal protection for romantic relationships is a good indicator of the level of legal protection available in that nation. According to the findings of research conducted by Hoefer, Black, and Ricard [67], more stringent state laws in the United States addressing civil protection orders (such as making it possible for unmarried minors to get protection orders) are connected with a reduction in the prevalence of dating violence.

In the context of education, relevant indicators may also include the ratio of males to females enrolled in elementary and secondary school STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) programs [68]. Furthermore, relevant health indicators may include the percentage of adolescent girls vaccinated against HPV

according to current guidelines, the proportion of secondary schools teaching comprehensive sex education , and the percentage of access to sexual and reproductive health services for adolescent girls without third-party permission/approval (such as partners, parents, or others).

In light of the findings presented by [69], additional study may be required in the field of health to determine the precise characteristics of gender inequality that have the most significant influence on Dating Violence Prevention (DVP).

When taken in conjunction with the information presented in these pages, it is possible to deduce that a relationship in which the victim is dependent on the offender is subject to severe repercussions. The offenders of indecent actions that have been shown to have been committed against their minor kid, adopted child, or someone who has not achieved adulthood and should be cared for, are subject to severe punishments, according to this article. The sentence might range from seven years minimum to seven years maximum in jail. Researchers are aware that preventative measures should first be taken on the most basic level (the family) before expanding to more extensive levels.

Intimate partner violence is a pervasive problem that calls for immediate attention, in particular within the framework of familial communication and discourse spaces. Teenagers' perspectives and actions are significantly influenced by their families, which makes sense given that families are the primary setting in which children learn social skills. For the purpose of treating and preventing violence in dating relationships, it is vital to have a solid understanding of the dynamics of communication within the context of the family [70]. When it comes to dating, adolescents who are still developing their identities are very interested in getting guidance that will help them reflect and make decisions when problems arise. The identification and prevention of abusive behaviour in partnerships is greatly aided by the fostering of an egalitarian attitude in those interactions. This acknowledgement serves as the foundation for any strategy that is successful in addressing the issue of violence in dating.

Recent research highlights the importance of providing young couples with the resources necessary to successfully negotiate the inevitable problems that will arise in their relationships. When we do this, we give ourselves a better chance of preventing the reinforcement of aggressive actions. Educational interventions are of critical relevance in this regard, as they emphasize the significance of maintaining good relationship dynamics. Teenagers are asked about their thoughts and habits, and those that contribute to the maintenance or improvement of their health are recognized. These include characteristics such as respect, trust, equilibrium, high self-esteem, and the development of distinct boundaries in one's interpersonal relationships. The development of aggressive inclinations can be thwarted by engaging in such constructive acts, which act as a counterforce. When it comes to making recommendations for training, it is of the utmost importance to align training techniques with the interests of adolescents. When developing participatory tactics for conflict resolution, it is helpful to incorporate interactive methods such as dramatization. Additionally, using information and communication technologies in preventative initiatives can engage young people and support the growth of healthy relationships that are free of sexism.

The findings of these programs provide credence to the idea that excellent education and training explicitly geared toward one's gender can make a substantial contribution to the elimination of violent behaviours. As a profession, nursing has the potential to play a significant part in expanding related actions and fulfilling the increasing need for services that are associated with dating violence. It is possible to construct interventions that centre on roles and relationship patterns in order to enhance the awareness of

VII. CONCLUSION

This report highlights the high rate of dating violence against Indonesian women. The study covers physical, emotional, economic, sexual, and activity-limiting violence. The data suggests that many women, particularly unmarried ones, are vulnerable to abuse from intimate partners, friends, or strangers. One in three women worldwide experience physical or sexual assault, according to WHO data. A 2016 Indonesian national survey found that 33.4% of women aged 15–64 had experienced physical and sexual violence. The government is concerned about violence against women and has taken steps to prevent and intervene. This study focuses on romantic relationship violence against unmarried women. The analysis found that 42.7% of violent events target unmarried women. In this subset, 34.4% of cases involve sexual violence. Dating violence often follows domestic abuse, according to a study. This element has gotten little attention and inquiry. Violence against women is caused by many factors, including low educational attainment, patriarchal ideologies, harmful

behaviours like substance abuse and alcohol consumption, emotional dysregulation, women initiating violence, infidelity, partner unemployment, volatile temperaments, childhood exposure to violence, and media content.

Addressing victims of violence involves helping them, encouraging them to reject intimate partner violence, and building self-confidence. Traumatized people may need a psychiatrist or psychologist treatment. Offenders are addressed by identifying underlying causes and providing counselling or psychotherapy to raise their awareness of the risks and consequences of their actions. The government has taken several steps to combat violence against women. The "Three Ends" initiatives consist of legislation that expressly targets three significant objectives. These projects aim to prevent violence against women and children, combat human trafficking, and solve women's economic inequities. Communication, information, and education are used to raise Indonesians' awareness of women's rights.

Indonesia's 1984 ratification of CEDAW has not eliminated gender-based discrimination against women. New laws like the Pornography and Pornoaction Bill and local dress regulations and curfews targeting women may propagate stereotypes and degrade women. The research also shows that adolescent romantic relationship violence is a public health issue. Approximately 40% of high school students have experienced romantic relationship violence. State rules against violence in adolescent romantic relationships and other variables may affect its occurrence. The study of dating violence emphasizes gender equality. The feminist movement of the early 1970s perceived domestic abuse and intimate partner violence as signs of male authority over women. Two perspectives dominate the gender equality debate. The first perspective, gender-based violence, suggests gender inequality in violence. Second, the gender equality theory states that intimate partners, even teens, are physically violent at the same rate. Remember that romantic relationship violence is a form of intimate partner violence. Aggression can be physical, sexual, psychological, or emotional, and stalking is included. Scholars have studied the impact of gender inequality on health, social dynamics, and economic issues. However, little research has examined teen romantic relationship violence. Thus, further research is needed to understand how gender imbalance and violence affect teenage love relationships.

This study advises improving legal safeguards, promoting women's educational and occupational prospects, and educating the public about women's rights to reduce violence against women. Additionally, more research is needed to evaluate indicators that may have a more significant impact, especially in developing nations or those devoted to gender equality. This report emphasizes the need for apparent violence against women laws and a global strategy to address this issue.

This study has significant drawbacks. Many study methods may not cover all women's interpersonal violence experiences. Additionally, environmental variables can affect research outcomes, making accurate measurement difficult. To continue this research, Indonesian relationship violence data and statistics must be updated and expanded. To promote women's prevention and protection, government, NGOs, and the public must work together. Governments, NGOs, and the public must work together to reduce interpersonal violence. Women's rights must be promoted via awareness, education, and protection to create a safe and loving environment for all.

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