

Strengthening Civic Engagement Responses to Sexual Violence against Women in the Public Sphere

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Abstract

Civic engagement is individual and collective actions designed to identify and address issues of public concern. This definition explicitly identifies the involvement of citizens in handling public problems including humanitarian problems. Indonesia as a democratic country and upholds human rights as proven normatively in the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia Article 1 paragraph (2) and Law Number 39 of 1999 Article 2 concerning Human Rights. Democracy contains complex definitions including aspects institutionalized in the daily behavior of citizens. Apathy and the lack of citizen involvement and awareness in dealing with humanitarian problems are problems in a democratic country and uphold human rights, including in this case the response of citizens to cases of sexual violence experienced by women in public sphere. The purpose of this study was to determine efforts to increase civic engagement in responding to cases of sexual violence against women in the public sphere. The research method uses literature review. The results of the study indicate the low engagement of citizens in responding to the phenomenon of sexual violence in public spaces so that efforts are needed to increase civic engagement, among others, by participating in activities or organizations in the community and participating in volunteer activities whose implications can increase civic engagement.

Keywords: civic engagement; public sphere; sexual violence; women.

Introduction

Indonesia as a democracy as proven normatively in the 1945 Constitution Article 1 paragraph (2) which reads "Sovereignty is in the hands of the people and is exercised

according to the Constitution". The context of a democratic country is very broad and complex, including the institutional aspects of social life in the daily behavior of its citizens. This includes civic engagement, in which the involvement is not only

participation in general elections and in political policy, but also the involvement of citizens in handling public problems including humanitarian issues (Agus et al., 2020).

Regarding the involvement of citizens in humanitarian matters, Indonesia is a country that upholds human rights based on Law Number 39 of 1999 article 2 which reads "The Republic of Indonesia recognizes and upholds human rights and basic human freedoms as rights that are naturally inherent in and inseparable from humans, which must be protected, respected and upheld for the sake of enhancing human dignity, welfare, happiness, and intelligence and justice". So in this case, the state plays an important role in establishing and uphold Human Rights with the support of all elements of citizens to make it happen.

In this regard, Indonesia has ratified the Universal Declaration of Human Rights including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women with the passage of Law Number 7 of 1984 concerning Ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. In this case, Indonesia as a country that has ratified the convention has an obligation to implement it in terms of protecting women from discrimination and sexual violence (Krisnanto & Syaputri, 2020).

According to Carpini and Keeter (1996) quoted from A. A. Agus, Muhammad Haidir, and Sudirman (2020: 4) defines civic engagement as "Civic engagement is individual

and collective actions designed to identify and address issues of public concern". This definition clearly identifies the involvement of citizens for handling public problems. This includes humanitarian problems (Agus et al., 2020).

According to Abdul Wahid and Muhammad Irfan (2001) quoted from Ani Purwanti and Marzellina Hardiyanti (2018: 139) defines sexual violence as a term that refers to derivative sexual behavior or deviant relationships, harming the victim and destroying peace in society. The existence of sexual violence that occurs, the suffering for the victim has become a serious result that requires attention (Purwanti & Hardiyanti, 2018).

Based on the Annual Records of The National Commission for Women in 2020, the number of cases of violence against women in 2020 was 299.911 cases, consisting of cases handled by: (1) District Courts/Religious Courts totaling 291.677 cases. (2) The National Commission for Women partner service institutions totaling 8.234 cases. (3) The National Commission for Women's Referral and Service Unit (UPR) totaled 2.389 cases, with a record that 2.134 cases were gender-based and 255 of which were cases that were not gender-based or provided information (Komnas Perempuan, 2020).

Sexual violence often occurs. Based on the data collected, the most prominent type of violence against women is Domestic Violence in Personal Domain, which reached 79% (6.480 cases). Among them, Violence Against Wife was in the first rank of 3.221 cases (50%),

followed by violence in dating 1.309 cases (20%) which took second place. The third position is violence against women as many as 954 cases (15%), the rest is violence by ex-boyfriends, ex-husbands, and violence against domestic workers. The private sphere was the most reported and not a few of them experienced sexual violence. The second position of violence against women in the community or public sphere is 21% (1.731 cases) with the most prominent case being sexual violence of 962 cases (55%) consisting of other sexual violence (or not specifically stated) with 371 cases, followed by rape of 229 cases, sexual abuse 166 cases, sexual harassment of 181 cases, sexual intercourse in 5 cases, and the remaining 10 cases of attempted rape (Komnas Perempuan, 2020).

The number of cases indicated that sexual violence against women poses a major threat to women's security, even though in crowded places there are still gaps for perpetrators to commit these acts to their victims. In this case, civic engagement plays an important role in minimizing sexual violence against women in the public sphere. However, based on a survey from BBC Indonesia regarding the reactions of witnesses as much as 40%, many witnesses ignored the victim, even 8% of the witnesses blamed the victim, however, many also defended the victim by 22%, and calmed the victim after the incident by 15%. This shows apathy and the low participation of citizens in dealing with humanitarian problems. In a survey conducted also related to the location of the incident,

the public space is the most common place sexual harassment, namely public roads (33%), public transport includes bus stops (19%), as well as schools and colleges (15%). Meanwhile, public transportation where the most sexual harassment occurred were buses (36%), public transportation (30%), online motorcycle taxis and online taxis (18%), commuter line train (18%), and conventional motorbike taxis and conventional taxis (6%) (<https://www.bbc.com/>, accessed April 18, 2021, 11.17 o'clock) (Tim BBC News Indonesia, 2019).

The results of the survey conducted by BBC Indonesia show that women are very vulnerable to becoming victims of sexual violence in public spaces. Even though they wear closed clothes, because the survey shows that on average the victims who received the unpleasant treatment wore closed clothes, even the hijab was 17%. This issue becomes very urgent considering that Indonesia as a country has ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, but has not been able to protect and provide a sense of security for women from all forms of discrimination. The role of every element of society as well as government policies is crucial in minimizing the occurrence of cases of sexual violence against women, both in the personal sphere and in the public sphere. In this case, the involvement of citizens becomes very urgent in relation to the issue of sexual violence against women in the public sphere, citizen apathy has resulted in cases of human rights violations such as this case

increasing and the public space becoming unsafe for women.

This study aims to determine efforts to increase civic engagement in responding to cases of sexual violence against women in the public sphere.

Literature Review

Civic Engagement can be defined as involvement in citizenship which is defined as an action or tendency to recognize societal problems at the local, regional, national and global levels and respond to them through actions such as volunteerism, political activities, and community participation (Mukhtarom et al., 2019).

In research Karliani (2014) states that Civics have a duty to develop civic knowledge competencies, civic skills, and civic dispositions to achieve the goal of Civics learning, namely to be good citizens. In this case, these competencies can be achieved if citizens already have civic engagement, which can be seen from the life of the organization and society (Karliani, 2014).

The development of a country in the fields of economy, politics, social, culture, defense and security will not succeed if it is not supported by the participation of its citizens. Therefore, through civic education it can stimulate and foster active citizen participation in state development. Citizenship education has a mission to foster community participation in understanding development needs, development issues, and development implementation.

Violence is the use of physical force and power, threats or actions against oneself, an individual or a group of people which is likely to result in bruising or trauma, death, psychological harm, developmental disabilities, or deprivation of rights. The concept of violence in this case is physical violence that often occurs in society, especially for women (Nadhifah, 2018).

Meanwhile, violence against women is a social phenomenon that we cannot hide anymore because it is an inseparable part of human social life. Basically, every act of violence always results in emotional, psychological, sexual, physical and material damage. Referring to the definition cited by Judith Berman from the Advisory Committee of Yale College Grievance Board and New York University, quoted from Fiana Dwiyanti (2014), the definition of sexual harassment has been formulated, namely: all sexual behavior or the tendency to behave sexually unwanted by someone either verbal (psychological) or physical according to the recipient's behavior as demeaning dignity, humiliation, intimidation, or coercion (Dwiyanti, 2014).

According to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, quoted from Erika Putri Wulandari and Hetty Krisnani (2020), there are variations in the types of violence against women, not limited to only a few that are displayed, and some of them are: a) domestic violence including economic violence, psychological violence, emotional violence, physical violence, and sexual violence; b) femicides or the

deliberate killing of women because they are women, including murder for the sake of honor, for example family honor; c) sexual violence including sexual harassment, rape, corrective rape or any form of rape committed against a person on the basis of sexual orientation and rape culture; d) human trafficking, e) female genital mutilation, f) child marriage, and g) digital-based violence including cyber bullying, sexual messages that both parties disagree with or do not reach consensus on, and doxing or disseminate personal information in the public (Wulandari & Krisnani, 2020).

Violence against women is "a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women", and "one of the important social mechanisms by which women subordination over men". Syafe'i (2015) quoted from Wulandari and Krisnani (2020) said that women's subordination is the position of 'duality' of women, which means that women are weaker or inferior to men in terms of position, function and role. Apart from subordination, Guamarawati (2009) quoted from Wulandari and Krisnani (2020) argues that women still bear the burden of being a marginalized group, such as discrimination, harassment, exploitation, and so on. Furthermore, violence against women involves gender-based violence that will end up in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering for women, including threats, coercion and arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life (Wulandari & Krisnani, 2020).

Violence that befell women can occur anywhere, in public as well as in private spaces. Some of this violence caused physical harm and some did not. Sexual harassment was first named in 1975. Previously, it did not appear, because acts of harassment were still considered taboo until finally they became real. Sexual violence in this category of violence that occurs in the public domain includes: sexual abuse, rape, attempted rape, sexual intercourse, sexual harassment, abortion, sexual exploitation, prostitution and pornography (Dwiyanti, 2014).

In this regard, Civic Engagement or citizen involvement is very important for citizens to have in relation to their involvement in humanitarian affairs, in this case the issue of violence against women in the public sphere. By having such an attitude, it can minimize crimes in the public sphere, such as cases of sexual violence against women. Apathy will only lead to more victims and make public places unsafe for women.

Result and Discussion

The Definition of Civic Engagement

According to Carpini and Keeter (1996) quoted from AA Agus, Muhammad Haidir, and Sudirman (2020: 4) defines civic engagement as "civic engagement is individual and collective actions designed to identify and address issues of public concern". This definition clearly identifies the involvement of citizens for handling public problems. This includes humanitarian problems (Agus et al., 2020).

Sherrod, Flanagan & Youniss (2002) quoted from Muhammad Saud (2020) said that "Civic engagement is important because participation in one's society is essential in functional". In this case, citizen involvement is a necessity for the socio-political development of the community or citizens. The citizenship behavior of society in general can generate respect and can build strong relationships or ties in society and the state (Saud, 2020).

The Definition of Sexual Violence against Women

Based on the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993), provides a definition of violence against women, namely as an act of gender-based violence that causes, or can cause, harm or physical, sexual or mental suffering for women, including threats, similar acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in the public sphere or in private life. This declaration was signed by the Government of Indonesia and ASEAN countries in 2004. As part of government's commitment to protect women from all forms of exploitation and violence sexual relations by forming regulations and policies that protect women from violence (Munti, 2016).

The Concept of Public Sphere

According to Hardiman (2010) quoted from W. Krisnanto and MD Syaputri (2020), it is explained that public space can be interpreted as a space that is physical (spatial), but can also be interpreted as a transcendent space that can be filled by residents. community to express

their aspirations and opinions. In the context of public understanding in Indonesian, the use of the word public comes from Latin which is often used in Old Roman which means publicus. In Roman, publicus has two meanings. The first means that belonging to the people as a political unit or state property and the second is in accordance with the people as the whole population or "general". With this understanding, the intended public is a condition in which the people as a population can use it together (Krisnanto & Syaputri, 2020). So, it can be concluded that the definition of public sphere is a space or a place, whether it is physical or transcendent, where the people as a resident can use it together.

In this case, the existence of a public sphere for women is very important, especially regarding the security for women from all forms of violence and discrimination against women. Because based on research conducted by IPSOS Indonesia nationally, 82% of Indonesian women have experienced sexual harassment in public sphere and this percentage is higher than the average of 8 other countries.

Forms of Sexual Violence against Women in the Public Sphere

Sexual violence is divided into 3, namely verbal, non-verbal, and physical. Related to this, the forms of sexual violence that are often encountered by women or survivors of sexual violence in public spaces include actions such as:

1. Catcalling

According to Chhun (2011) quoted from A. Hidayat and Y.

Setyanto (2019: 487) identifies catcalling as: the use of indecent words, verbal expressions and non-verbal expressions that occur in public places, for example: on roads, on sidewalks, and bus stops. Verbally, catcalling is usually done through whistling or comments about a woman's appearance. Nonverbal expressions also include glances or physical gestures that act to provide an assessment of a woman's appearance (Hidayat & Setyanto, 2019).

2. Sexual Intimidation

As an act that attacks sexuality and creates fear for women as victims. Sexual intimidation can take the form of threats or attempted rape.

3. Sexual Harassment

In the form of sexual acts through physical or non-physical touch with the target of the victim's sexual organs or sexuality which results in discomfort, feelings of humiliation, and causes health problems, or even threats to their safety.

4. Rape

As a form of forced sexual intercourse, which is generally carried out by men to women.

Civic Engagement related to Sexual Violence against Women in Public Sphere

Citizen involvement is very important in responding to issues and problems related to or in society. This includes the involvement of citizens in responding to humanitarian issues such as the phenomenon of sexual violence against women in public spaces. In

this regard, based on research conducted by IPSOS Indonesia nationally, 82% of Indonesian women have experienced sexual harassment in public spaces and this percentage is higher than the average of 8 other countries. And even more worrying, 91% of respondents said they did not know what to do to help victims. The survey results indicate that ignoring victims of sexual violence is the most dominant reaction of witnesses in responding to incidents of sexual violence experienced by fellow citizens. This indicates dominant citizens have an attitude of apathy and lack of involvement of citizens and civic participation related to humanitarian issues, in particular the phenomenon of violence sexual against women in public spaces or public places.

Efforts to Strengthening Civic Engagement

1) Involving in activities or organizations in the community
Citizen involvement is very important and a requirement in civil society in social groups in society. The involvement of citizens will foster and build an open, trusting, tolerant attitude between individuals and between groups. This is very important in the development of democratic politics. In this regard, activities or organizations that citizens can participate in include non-governmental organizations. So that in this case civil society can participate well and involve themselves in various community-based activities (Ubaedillah, 2017). In this case, citizens need to build Civic Engagement to become good

citizens. Civic Engagement is built through concern for the surrounding environment shown by an attitude of mutual help, mutual cooperation, and so on. So that through such an attitude towards the surrounding environment, in facing crimes such as violence against women in the public space, there will be empathy for the victim and then helping the victim.

2) Participate in volunteer activities
In a democratic country, involving citizens is very important. This includes the involvement of citizens in social issues and problems that occur in society. This includes the involvement of citizens in social issues and problems that occur in the community directly or by volunteering. According to Oppenheimer (1998) quoted from Muhammad Monna Adha, Eska Prawisudawati Ulpa, Jack McGregor Johnstone, and Billy L. Cook (2019) explained that "The voluntary principle is often acknowledged as an integral part of democratic society". Indonesia has a volunteerism concept known as "gotong royong" as one of the largest democracies in the world. The concept of volunteering teaches individuals as citizens to actively participate in communities who contribute based on their abilities. Volunteerism is related to morality that invites, teaches, and provides experiences to every volunteer involved to be moved by their sympathy and empathy in humanitarian activities (Adha et al., 2019). Civic participation in this case will build civic awareness and sensitivity which in turn fosters civic engagement of citizens in the life of

society and the state. Therefore, it is important for citizens to involve themselves in various social issues that exist in society that can foster sympathy and empathy in humanitarian activities such as participating in campaigns, volunteering, and so on related to social issues so that they will be able to build awareness. citizens against these issues. Including in this case when faced directly, citizens already know what to do and what to act so that they have a sense of concern and in the end get involved in helping victims of violence. Thus, it will gradually reduce the incidence of sexual violence against women in the public sphere.

Conclusion

Civic engagement is a form of citizen involvement in handling public problems, including in this case humanitarian issues. In this case, civic engagement is very important for citizens in a country that is democratic and upholds human rights so that they can participate properly in a community and in the alleviation of public problems, including humanitarian problems. This is particularly related to issues and issues of sexual violence in the public sphere, which are against morals and cause human rights violations to victims. Therefore, civic engagement is very important to be implemented in every citizen to minimize various immoral actions, in this case sexual violence against women as a form of citizen participation in a country that is democratic and upholds human rights. The low civic engagement is a

problem, so it needs to strengthening civic engagement. Efforts to increase civic engagement by citizens include involving citizens in activities, whether active in organizational activities such as non-governmental organizations or actively participating in social issues such as volunteering or participating in a campaign, the implications of which can provide experience and can foster sympathy and empathy of citizens who volunteer. Thus, these efforts will be able to grow and build citizen awareness, which implies that it can increase civic engagement of citizens, especially related to the phenomenon of sexual violence against women in the public sphere. This will have implications for creating and improving the quality of life for a better and more harmonious community. Civic Engagement in this case needs to be built and instilled in every citizen so that he becomes a good and smart citizen.

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