

DIGITAL-BASED SYNERGY OF CAMPUS COMMUNITIES AND STUDENTS IN EFFORTS TO PREVENT SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE HIGHER EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

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Abstract

Sexual violence is defined as any act that, as a result of power dynamics or gender relations, degrades, harasses, or attacks a person's body, causing or possibly causing psychological or physical suffering, as well as interfering with and preventing them from safely and effectively pursuing higher education. Anywhere can experience sexual violence, including on campus. When technology is misused, as in the instance of sexual harassment, a person's ignorance of its use might have detrimental effects. This study combined a qualitative approach with a library research methodology, whereby data was collected from books, journals, and other reading materials, and conclusions and suggestions were drawn in response to the issues found. When it comes to sexual harassment on campus, the researchers found that some incidents happened in locations that students don't often visit—namely, the library room—because there are so many online resources available for information. As a result, the researchers reached conclusions and recommendations regarding how to stop sexual harassment in higher education. They suggested creating online action in the form of slogans and posters that are shared by colleges, students, and the campus community through social media platforms already in place, as well as providing a platform or facility like a Counseling Service Unit related to sexual violence as a form of complaint to the Integrated Service Unit.

Keywords: Campus community, Sexual harassment

1. Introduction

The human industrial revolution is about to begin in the history of global progress. In the framework of social life, the development of digital technology can have both beneficial and detrimental effects. A common issue in digital development is a lack of understanding of technology and how to apply it (Ferdiana, 2023). The reality of society, which is occasionally ill-prepared to deal with these advancements, frequently differs from current developments, particularly those related to technology. There is still very little support for even digital technology (Laksana, A., Fitrianti, R., & Humadi, 2022). Because it originates with their use of social media, college surroundings are more likely than teenage settings to encounter high levels of sexual harassment. Because so many kids use digital media without

considering the potential effects and repercussions, they are more likely to become victims of sexual harassment.

The application of learning should be supported by digital literacy with relation to using cellphones and the internet. The process of applying academic knowledge to broaden societal advantages is known as community service. Additionally, a student and lecturer at Panca Budi Development University provide a service that benefits society in a number of significant ways. This is an example of a university's tri dharma—education, service, and research—being applied to community service (Mahuda & Kusuma, 2020). The campus community and students support this community service project by raising awareness of the risks associated with utilizing digital apps and social media. Teenagers from the millennial generation continue to commit high rates of harassment crimes using digital media in higher education settings. Therefore, the goal of this socialization program is to increase the awareness of teens' use of social media among the campus community and students. There are a number of issues with digital literacy abilities, including the inability to recognize digital content that may be used to find the reliable information needed and the underutilization of digital technology during the learning process (Sejat, et al., 2021).

The library is one location where one can engage in educational activities and learn new information. But as things stand right now, not many people—including students and other community members—visit the library. These days, many students and even students themselves visit libraries, where they may search for and read some books they choose by just opening the screen and typing the title. Because of this, libraries—especially those on campuses—are more silent and can be used as a venue for sexual harassment. The absence of supervision leads to kids engaging in inappropriate behavior in the library.

Teenagers and students are not aware of the legal implications of Article 51, paragraph 2 of the ETI Law, which makes it illegal to distribute content that transgresses moral or religious standards. According to the article, teens are still ignorant about the legal implications of using digital social media. Information technology use and transactions are governed in Indonesia by the ETI Law (Electronic Transaction Information). The purpose of this regulation is to control how people use computers, the Internet, and other electronic devices. The goal of this socialization exercise is to teach individuals how to use digital smartphones, navigate the internet safely and healthily, identify useful programs, and more. The idea is that they will be able to utilize these tools wisely, however ultimately it is up to them. When using digital social media, parents require guidance (Mardiana et al., 2022).

We would like to raise the term "Digital-Based Synergy of Campus Communities and Students in Efforts to Prevent Sexual Harassment in The Higher Educational Environment" since, as the description above indicates, many examples occur, particularly in higher education contexts.

2. Literature Review

Women are granted greater physical and mental protection than men because they are viewed as emotionally and physically weaker than men. Parents are worried about their daughters' safety. They are also concerned about the social and physical costs of long-distance travel. One of those barriers is sexual harassment. Due to certain sociocultural barriers, parents are hesitant to send their daughters to an educational institution. The performance of female pupils is severely impacted by sexual harassment. A previous study clarified the various forms of sexual harassment, such as physical proximity, indecent body language, verbal insults, unwelcome jokes and conversations, bullying, touching, and gazing. Other studies have described forms of sexual harassment, including assaults, coercion, sexist statements, and sexual approaches (Khan et al., 2022).

For this reason, it is necessary to have help from parents to reduce cases of sexual violence that occur in early childhood, where the perpetrators we cannot guess where and who. With the understanding given by parents to children from an early age about sex education, it can teach children to be responsible for their bodies when they are away or not with their parents or family. So that parents will be calmer when children are outside the home without parental supervision (Ritonga & Munisa, 2022).

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) defines sexual harassment as unwanted sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical acts of a sexual nature that impact an individual's employment, unreasonably interfere with that individual's ability to perform their job, or produce an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment. This unethical activity may affect or be seen to hinder professional advancement, damage working relationships, abuse the rights and trust of those impacted, and is likely to risk patient care. It also takes advantage of power and status disparities (Binder et al., 2018).

The harassment may be sexual or gender-based, and it may take the form of verbal, nonverbal, or physical abuse. Intentional physical forms of sexual harassment can include rape or sexual assault, as well as caressing, pinching, kissing, embracing, leaning over, or massaging someone. A few examples of verbal forms of sexual harassment are inappropriate remarks about a woman's physical appearance, persistent requests or invitations to go on dates, asking about sexual fantasies, preferences, or history, and making inappropriate and socially and culturally inappropriate jokes or comments with overtly sexual overtones. It is improper to refer to a woman by terms like "doll," "babe," "honey," or anything like. Unwelcome gestures, suggestive body language, indecent exposure, frequent winks, sexual gestures, whistling at someone, and the undesired presentation of pornographic materials are examples of nonverbal forms of sexual harassment. Harassment might include sending sexually suggestive letters, calls, texts, emails, blog posts, comments on social media, and other correspondence. The most prevalent type of harassment in the healthcare industry is verbal, which generally takes the form of sexually provocative remarks or jokes. Interfering inquiries regarding a person's personal life or physical attractiveness come next (Mansour et al., 2021).

In academic medicine and healthcare facilities as well as other sectors, sexual harassment is a widespread problem. Despite the fact that this practice is prohibited by law, polls indicate that it is nonetheless widely used in the healthcare industry. Sexual harassment affects employee well-being and the provision of patient care in a number of ways, ranging from undesired advances to gender-based discrimination. Two common outcomes include personnel turnover and mental health effects. To identify and deal with sexually objectionable behaviors, prevention and training are essential. Encouraging bystander reporting and improving senior faculty training are two institutional reforms that are necessary to create environments free from harassment. Implementing policy reviews, stressing prevention, and thinking critically about workplace culture are essential stages in bringing about long-lasting change in all medical areas.

Studies on sexual harassment in higher education from non-North and West regions focus on distinct topics, like HIV prevention, unintended pregnancies, and the immediate and indirect effects of poverty (support requirements, access issues). Regularly addressed are more tangible issues as well, such as requests for sexual services from female students by male instructors in order for them to be eligible for a legitimate exam certificate. But over the past ten years, there has been a significant shift in the field. Young researchers have brought fresh ideas and viewpoints, most notably intersectionality, to the field. Additionally, new forms of exposure—such as experiences of minorities and online sexual harassment—have come to light, and theories regarding violence, structure, and organization have been summarized. Furthermore, sexual harassment is now widely acknowledged as a global scourge that affects all aspects of life thanks to the #MeToo movement (Bondestam & Lundqvist, 2020).

3. Research Method

Utilizing a literature study methodology, the research is qualitative in nature. When a study is done to characterize an object using information from credible sources—books, journals, proceedings, and other scientific works—and the truth as it is—without embellishment. A form of qualitative research methodology known as the library method involves conducting research in places such as libraries, archives, records, and the like. The library technique is a research approach where data is gathered via libraries, which are locations where study findings are kept (Ashrof et al., 2020). Field research, or systematic research that gathers data from the field, is also a part of this study.

4. Results and Discussion

The current state of sexual violence is indicative of the research's findings. Sexual violence cases are on the rise right now, and they are concerningly common. Sexual violence incidents in Indonesia are becoming an iceberg occurrence. The bulk of sexual assault victims are female and/or juvenile. The offenders are from diverse backgrounds as well. It is regrettable that educational institutions, including colleges, Islamic boarding schools, and schools, are frequently the sites of sexual assault. Gender dynamics, rape culture, and unequal power relations can all lead to sexual violence. When persons in positions of authority are perceived as having the potential to misuse their influence and commit sexual assault against those who are viewed as weak or under their supervision, this is known as unequal power relations.

Most incidents of sexual assault against women take place in college settings. According to information gleaned from the Ministry of PPPA's Child and Protection Online Information System (SIMFONI PPPA), 1,411 incidents of violence against women were reported in educational institutions between January 1, 2022, and February 21, 2022. And universities are where the majority of these occurrences take place. There is a wealth of information and facts regarding sexual assault in Indonesia, which is also an indication that there is a sexual violence "emergency" requiring prompt medical attention. Based on all the information that is currently available, universities have been identified as one of the educational institutions that contribute to Indonesia's high rate of sexual violence incidents. About 27% of reports of sexual violence originated from universities, according to statistics gathered by the Ministry of Education and Culture in 2021 (Ramadiani et al., 2022).

Data from the MPI Research and Development Team in 2021 revealed the following instances of harassment that took place in Indonesian higher education settings:

Table 1. Lists instances of sexual harassment that took place in universities.

No	Institution Name Initials	Perpetrators of Sexual Harassment	Forms of Harassment	Time of Event
1	UVR	Dean	Kissing female student during tutoring thesis	November 2021
2	UVP	Lecturer	Sexual harassment by lecturers towards students	December 2019
3	UVSP	Lecturer	Enticing female students to engage in sexual behavior	September 2021

The aforementioned case, along with a few more, took place in the library room, a unique and extremely secluded space that is never used by students. Given the prevalence of sexual violence, particularly on campuses and in higher education, initiatives to prevent and address sexual violence should be given high priority. Higher education institutions need to start noticing this and shouldn't let it happen because it will lower the quality of education because they won't be able to guarantee the safe implementation of education by establishing a campus that is safe, friendly, comfortable, and free from sexual violence. Universities are making efforts in this area, incorporating the involvement of students and the campus community.

1. Disseminating programs and policies against sexual violence and/or bullying through traditional means or by utilizing information technology, such as actively using social media as a special task force for outreach with flyers and banners that are always updated on social media, is one preventive action that the University Library can take.



Figure 1. Informational Page for Services for Reporting Sexual Assaults

2. Provide funds and initiatives to stop bullying and/or sexual assault both offline and online.
3. Expand awareness of anti-sexual violence and/or bullying through training, lectures, seminars, debates, public campaigns, and other print and electronic media in addition to information technology use and campus academic orientation materials.
4. Setting up infrastructure and amenities that are secure and cozy.
5. Promote the creation of long-term, scientific research and documentation on bullying and/or sexual violence based on gender mainstreaming grounded on identity, values, and Pancasila.
6. Create and enhance the program for psychological consultations and legal support for the academic community, teaching personnel, and students with regard to sexual violence and/or bullying.

In light of this, it's important to support other initiatives that complement one another to stop violence on campuses. Preventive measures must be employed in addition to the employment of legal tools for repression. It is widely acknowledged that the most effective way to avoid crime is through prevention, which also plays a crucial role in eliminating the conditions and causes that might otherwise lead to an incident or action. The primary goal of prevention is to use efficient techniques to directly or indirectly address the root causes of behavior.

Prevention science can be useful in reducing the negative effects of sexual harassment on a target community, preventing or postponing the occurrence of sexual harassment with a focus on vulnerable populations, and advocating for policies and practices that improve well-being at the individual, organizational, and community levels. Empirical information from the biopsychosocial sciences—sociology, psychology, behavioral science, economics, medicine, epidemiology, and neurology—is synthesized in the transdisciplinary science of prevention. In addition to assisting in the identification of tactics, regulations, guidelines, and practices aimed at lowering the frequency of sexual harassment, this synthesis technique can assist in identifying the multilayered ecological factors that give rise to such incidents at IHEs. The two-pronged purpose of prevention is to: (a) thoroughly research the "precursors of dysfunction or health, called risk factors and protective factors, respectively," and (b) to create, put into practice, assess, and analyze evidence-based strategies that can lower the aforementioned risk variables and raise protective ones. When these two objectives are combined, they can lessen the incidence of sexual harassment victims and support wholesome communities and organizations in higher education. The usefulness and adaptability of six of the nine successful prevention program principles—discussed below—in the context of higher education can help to lessen gender-based violence in this setting (Crusto et al., 2024).

Policies against sexual harassment have been created over the past few decades as activism and study have shown how commonplace and harmful the practice is. There is currently a wealth of data outlining the general patterns of sexual harassment across numerous nations. By defining it, communicating about it, and keeping an eye on it, the categories seek to avoid sexual harassment and address it when it does occur through reporting procedures and complaint handling. The policy study revealed inadequacies in the sampled policies that, rather than challenging, reflected the patriarchal norms of the time. Most importantly, by excluding monitoring and auditing, rules are perpetuating the current state of affairs. For instance, the sampled rules made no mention of plans to investigate sexual harassment allegations that were resolved. The success of anti-harassment rules is ultimately harmed by these omissions because any flaws, gaps, and new problems will go unchecked (Blumell & Mulupi, 2023).

5. Conclusions

Many people are concerned about the topic of sexual violence cases in today's world. You can use social media outreach with the theme of preventing and addressing sexual violence to spread awareness about the problem of sexual violence prevention and help solve it. It is believed that the student body and campus community would be able to enhance the way that sexual violence is handled and prevented in Indonesia. Sexual violence encompasses several forms of coercion, including but not limited to violence against sexual rights, coercion about sexual orientation, coercion during sexual acts, and coercion in engaging in sexual relations.

It was concluded that there are patterns of sexual assault on campus that might happen between male and female students, between professors and teaching staff, and so on. The optimal way to address the issue of sexual violence may involve taking legal or ethical measures, depending on what the victim decides in each individual instance. The first steps in addressing sexual violence on campuses include creating a student community to act as a handling unit, offering resources like a counseling service unit for victims of sexual assault to file complaints with the Integrated Service Unit, and organizing online campaigns to stop sexual violence. These campaigns can take the form of slogans or posters that are shared by colleges, students, and the campus community via social media.

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