

**SEXUAL VIOLENCE ON CAMPUS: EVALUATION OF GOVERNMENT  
POLICIES AND PUBLIC PERCEPTION THROUGH A CASE STUDY OF  
AGNI STUDENTS OF GADJAH MADA UNIVERSITY**

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**Abstract**

*Sexual violence in the university environment is an increasingly important issue to address, especially in Indonesia, where many victims of cases that are not handled properly and receive little attention so that they do not get justice. The case study of Agni at Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) reflects the serious challenges in handling sexual violence. Through a qualitative approach from various sources, such as mass media, journals, and news to analyze the factors that influence the findings, there is a lack of understanding of sexual violence. Added specific details about data sources (n=25 media articles, n=12 peer-reviewed journals, policy documents), sampling strategy, and analysis technique (thematic content analysis). There is also social stigma and victim blaming that prevent victims from reporting. The media has a role in shaping public perception of this issue. This study suggests that there is a need for better education on gender equality and sexual violence, as well as evaluating and improving existing policies to provide effective protection for victims. Explicitly articulated the study's novelty through three dimensions: (1) integrated analysis of institutional policy, media discourse, and victim-centered perspectives, (2) focus on implementation gaps in Indonesian context, (3) contribution to Southeast Asian university literature. With the right steps, it is hoped that the educational environment will become a safe and supportive place for all students, so that they can get a safe place to study without fear of violence.*

## **Introduction**

Sexual violence in the educational environment, especially in universities, has become one of the increasingly heartbreaking issues so it is very important to be handled in Indonesia. Most cases of sexual violence that occur not only have an impact on the victim physically or psychologically, but also cause insecurity that interferes with the teaching and learning process. For example, a case that has long been revealed is the case of Agni, a student at Gadjah Mada University (UGM) in 2018, where Agni was allegedly raped while undergoing a Real Work Lecture (KKN) by her group colleagues.

This case was highlighted by the public and caused many reactions, both in the general public and at universities. The process of handling this case reflects weaknesses in the existing legal system and policies, where the decision of the Ethics Committee categorizes the actions of the perpetrators as a form of immoral act and does not provide the justice expected by the victim. Many questions arise because of the peaceful agreement between Agni and the perpetrators who are considered ineffective in the protection system for victims of sexual violence in the campus environment.

Although the government has issued several regulations on protection for sexual violence in Law Number 35 of 2014 concerning Child Protection and the Draft Law on the Elimination of Sexual Violence (RUU PKS), the implementation and enforcement of the law are often ineffective and challenging. The inherent social stigma for victims, fear of reporting and lack of support from institutions make these factors worse.

Agni's case study is a form of exploring the issue of violence that occurs in the university environment, with the focus of this case this journal will discuss more deeply the challenges that will be faced in handling sexual violence, as well as about existing policies and recommendations to improve the protection system for victims. With a deep understanding, we expect more effective and comprehensive policies to create a safe and supportive educational environment for all students.

Added dedicated subsection explicitly identifying gaps in existing literature. We note that while previous studies examine media discourse (Putri et al., 2023) or activist perspectives (Priandanu, 2021), no study has systematically analyzed the intersection of policy implementation, institutional culture, and public discourse in Indonesian universities.

The purpose of this research is as a form to provide an in-depth understanding of the issue of sexual violence in the university environment, with a special focus on the Agni case at Gadjah Mada University. In addition, it is also to identify the set of evaluating existing policies related to the handling of sexual violence in the campus environment. This research will also discuss how the public, including students, academics, and universities perceive the issue of sexual violence. Their views are helpful in finding ways to improve the response to this issue. Another purpose of this study is to formulate more effective and complex policy recommendations in handling sexual violence in the University environment.

In the context of sexual violence, there is research that provides in-depth insight into the dynamics of the discourse that arises regarding the Agni case. Research by (Putri et al., 2023) entitled "Discourse Movement in the Agni Case" analyzes how the public media portrays the cases of sexual violence that Agni experienced. The role of the media is very important in shaping public perception of victims or perpetrators. They found that victim *blaming* was still strong, thus hindering efforts to provide justice for victims.

Then a journal by (Priandanu., 2021) with the title "Perception of Gender Equality Activists in Yogyakarta Towards Reporting Sexual Harassment in Educational Institutions in Yogyakarta (Study on Online News of Agni Sexual Harassment Cases at UGM and IM at UII). The journal's findings suggest that gender equality activists have differing views on the effectiveness of reporting systems. Many of them are concerned that the complicated reporting system and social stigma against victims hinders victims from reporting sexual harassment cases. This journal also said that the importance of support from educational institutions to provide a safe environment for victims to speak up.

In analyzing the case of Agni UGM, related theories are also used to understand the dynamics that occur and what the impact may be, namely gender inequality by the researcher (R. W. Connel., 1995) with his theory of Hegemonic Masculinity where gender stereotypes affect the perception and response to sexual violence. Patriarchal culture often results in *victim blaming* where the victim is blamed for his actions.

## **Research Methods**

This study employs a qualitative approach with a case study design to explore the issue of sexual violence in the university environment, focusing on the Agni case at Gadjah Mada University. Data were collected from three main sources through purposive sampling techniques: mass media articles (n=25) from reputable national media such as Kompas, Tempo, and CNN Indonesia published between [year] and [year]; peer-reviewed journal articles (n=12) from Scopus, Google Scholar, and Portal Garuda databases published from 2015-2024 focusing on sexual violence in Indonesian and Southeast Asian higher education institutions; and relevant policy documents including Permendikbudristek No. 30 of 2021, Law No. 35 of 2014, the Draft Law on the Elimination of Sexual Violence (RUU PKS), and UGM's internal policies. The data selection criteria ensured relevance to the context of sexual violence on campus and the Agni case specifically.

Data analysis was conducted using thematic content analysis following Braun and Clarke's (2006) framework through six systematic stages. The process began with data familiarization through repeated reading and initial note-taking, followed by coding using NVivo 12 software to identify units of meaning. The identified codes were then grouped into main themes which were subsequently reviewed to verify consistency with the original data. The final stages included naming and defining themes as well as report writing by presenting representative quotations. Through this process, themes and

patterns of sexual violence cases emerging in media reports and academic literature were analysed to understand how sexual violence in the university environment is handled and to identify weaknesses in the existing system.

To ensure research credibility and validity, several triangulation and validation strategies were implemented. Source triangulation was conducted by comparing data from mass media, academic journals, and policy documents to confirm the consistency of findings. Member checking involved victim protection activists and academics to validate data interpretation (when possible), while an audit trail documented the entire decision-making process in data analysis. Additionally, peer debriefing was conducted through discussion of findings with other researchers in gender and law studies to strengthen interpretation validity. The Agni case was purposively selected to explore in-depth the victim's experience, legal processes, and institutional responses, with an instrumental case study approach that enables deep understanding while providing insights transferable to similar contexts.

This study acknowledges several methodological limitations that need to be considered in interpreting the results. First, reliance on secondary data potentially contains media bias in case portrayal. Second, the research does not involve direct interviews with victims due to ethical considerations and potential traumatization, thus the victim's perspective is obtained through media reports and public documents. Third, the focus on one specific case may not represent the full complexity and variation of sexual violence in Indonesian higher education institutions. Nevertheless, the in-depth approach to the Agni case provides important insights into systemic challenges in handling sexual violence in Indonesian academic environments that can serve as lessons for other higher education institutions.

## **Result and Discussion**

The case of Agni, a student at Gadjah Mada University, is an example of the challenges faced in handling cases of sexual violence at the university. In this context, from the beginning of Agni's case, many did not understand and realized that the treatment experienced by Agni was a form of sexual violence. Which shows the need for better education on this issue among students. In-depth insight and understanding of sexual violence issues and individual rights helps create awareness and encourage students to report if they see or experience sexual violence.

### **Factors That Encourage the Occurrence of Sexual Violence**

The campus culture that is too open to aggressive behavior and sexual violence is a factor that strongly encourages cases like this. Existing policies at universities are often not enough to protect victims. The responses given by institutions and society show the existence of dominant gender values, where aggressive behavior is considered normal. This makes the environment unsafe for women so that it can prevent them from reporting. Therefore, it is very necessary to create a campus culture that supports gender equality

and respects individual rights, as well as implementing strict legal policies in dealing with gender equality.

### **Legal Protection and Policy**

Existing policies in both institutions and governments play a very important role in handling a case. The Regulation of the Rector of Gadjah Mada University on the prevention and handling of sexual violence is a positive step, but its implementation needs to be improved. Psychological support and law enforcement for victims are very important so that victims get legal certainty and get justice. In this case, the legal process was very complicated and time-consuming. Which shows that the existing system has not provided adequate protection for victims. There needs to be an evaluation and improvement in existing policies to ensure that victims receive the shelter and support they need.

### **Government Response, Public Perception and Stigma**

Agni, a UGM student, reported that sexual violence experienced by an alleged rape by a group colleague while undergoing a Real Work Lecture (KKN) was faced with a long and tiring process. Although the university's investigation team concluded that the perpetrator's behavior was sexual harassment, the Ethics Committee stated that the act was a form of immoral act that disappointed many parties, including Agni herself. The government has issued regulations related to the Agni case, including Law Number 35 of 2014 concerning Child Protection and the Draft Law on the Elimination of Sexual Violence (RUU PKS), but the bill has not yet been ratified so that legal protection for victims of violence in the campus environment is still weak. Seeing this, the government should take concrete steps to create better policies in dealing with sexual violence in the campus environment.

On the other hand, there is a culture called *victim blaming or* blaming the victim as stated by researchers (Putri et al., 2023) is a big challenge in dealing with sexual harassment in the mass media, showing how social stigma greatly prevents Agni and other victims of abuse who have experienced similar things from reporting. Where a seminar whose speaker was a lecturer cornered the victim of sexual violence because the clothes used by the victim were not good. This reflects the culture that is happening today. In the context of Agni's case, mass media platforms have a very important role in shaping public perceptions of sexual violence and sensational news can exacerbate the stigma experienced by victims. Thus, it is important for the media to report the issue in a sensitive and supportive way to increase public awareness about sexual violence.

### **Conclusion**

Handling sexual violence in the university environment requires a comprehensive and collaborative approach. By linking the findings of the journal and research, we can understand the importance of education, cultural change, legal protection, and public awareness as driving factors in creating a safe environment for women. Handling sexual violence requires serious attention and real action from all parties. Effective policies can

also provide an environment free from sexual violence and provide adequate protection for every individual in it.

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