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Socialization of Legal Protection and the Impacts of Sexual Abuse on Women in Neglasari Village, Katibung Subdistrict, South Lampung Regency

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ABSTRACT

Sexual abuse is one of the most common forms of violence experienced by women in Indonesia. The socialization in this community services activity aims to provide knowledge and understanding for women and adolescents in Neglasari Village, Katibung Subdistrict, South Lampung Regency about legal protection and the potential impacts of sexual abuse on women. The socialization activity took place at Sumbangsih Education Foundation Junior High School in Neglasari Village, Katibung Subdistrict, South Lampung Regency by involving 80 participants. The findings reveal that participants' knowledge and understanding about legal protection and the impacts of sexual abuse on women increased after attending the material presentation and participating in the discussion. Initially, the knowledge of these junior high school students in Neglasari Village regarding sexual abuse on women was still low, indicated by their level of understanding ranging from 20 to 33% for all questions given. However, their level of understanding increased to 65 to 80% after the socialization, indicating that their knowledge and understanding about legal protection and the impacts of sexual abuse on women increased after attending the material presentation and participating in the discussion.

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1. Introduction

Sexual abuse is one of the most common forms of violence experienced by women, largely due to society's perception of women as sexual objects (Istiawati *et al.*, 2022). Sexual abuse often occurs as a result of the victim's motivation to encourage abuse and violence, as well as due to the perpetrator's desire and opportunity to harass. Sexual abuse can comprise many forms, such as flirting, whistling, sexual remarks, sexual humor, pinching, poking, touching, or caressing certain parts of the body, certain sexual gestures or movements, inviting someone out with threats or promises, inviting someone to have sex, and rape (Itriyah & Devera, 2023).

In 2017, there were 1,208 cases of physical violence against women and children, 1,291 cases of psychological violence, and 921 cases of sexual abuse. Furthermore, the National Commission on Violence against Women recorded 401,975 cases of violence against women in 2023, with psychological violence accounting for 3,498 cases or 41.55%. Physical and sexual violences ranked second and third, respectively, with 2,081 cases (24.71%) and 762 cases (9.05%). This commission also reported that in 2024, there were 289,111 cases of violence against women, a decrease of approximately 12% compared to that of 2022, which had 55,920 cases (Putri *et al.*, 2024). These data indicate that one of the most common forms of violence in Indonesia is sexual abuse on women and children.

Female adolescents who experience sexual abuse are highly likely to suffer from mental stress, depression, loss of appetite, sleeping difficulty, poor academic performance, and even self-harm (Ardiansyah *et al.*, 2023). A study by Rugulies *et al.* (2020) stated that 18-year-old adolescents who experience sexual abuse are highly likely to suffer from depression as a result. Ståhl & Dennhag (2021) also revealed that 28.19% of men and 48.5% of women aged 12 to 20 years old suffer from anxiety and despair as a result of experiencing sexual abuse, either directly or online. Unfortunately, adequate legal protection against sexual abuse and violence is still lacking, mainly because victims of sexual violence still face the existing stigma in society, making them reluctant to report such incidents to the related authorities (Julianti *et al.*, 2023).

In relation to the above background, there were several issues occurring in Neglasari Village, Katibung Subdistrict, South Lampung Regency: (1) limited understanding and awareness among the community about the importance of legal protection for women and adolescents in sexual abuse cases; (2) many people in the community did not aware that sexual abuse can occur in various forms, such as verbal, physical, and digital; and (3) lack of educational resources and guidance about the prevention and impacts of sexual abuse in Neglasari Village, Katibung Subdistrict, South Lampung Regency. Thus, taking these phenomena into account, a community services activity was conducted via socialization with the aim to provide foundational knowledge and understanding for women and adolescents in Neglasari Village, Katibung Subdistrict, South Lampung Regency about legal protection and the impacts of sexual abuse on women.

2. Methods

The socialization in this community services activity took place on January 2025 at Sumbangsih Education Foundation Junior High School in Neglasari Village, Katibung Subdistrict, South Lampung Regency. The participants of this socialization activity were 80 students of this junior high school. This activity consisted of four sessions: pre-test, material presentation, discussion and question-and-answer (Q&A), and post-test.

The first session was a pre-test. According to Purwanto, pre-test is a test conducted prior to a teaching to assess the level of participants' initial knowledge and understanding regarding the material to be presented (Siregar *et al.*, 2023). The pre-test in this context aimed to measure participants' initial

understanding about sexual abuse against women. The second session was material presentation delivered by the community services team. The material covered various topics: the definition of sexual abuse, types of sexual abuse, the impacts of sexual abuse on physical and mental health, the recovery and health support, and the roles of the related laws in sexual abuse cases. The third session was discussion and Q&A. This session aimed to give participants the opportunity to ask questions so that they could gain deeper insights about certain topics that need to be discussed further. Finally, the fourth session was a post-test. According to Syamsia, post-test is a test conducted to assess the level of participants' understanding and knowledge about the material that has been presented (Siregar *et al.*, 2023).

3. Results and discussion

The implementation of socialization activity about legal protection and the impacts of sexual abuse on women began with a pre-test to assess participants' initial understanding about this topic. This pre-test asked about five matters: 1) the definition and general overview of sexual abuse, 2) one type of sexual abuse, 3) the impacts of sexual abuse on physical health, 4) one of the roles of the related laws in sexual abuse cases, and 5) the control measures that can be exerted by the community to prevent the emergence of sexual abuse cases. Figure 1 presents the pre-test results.

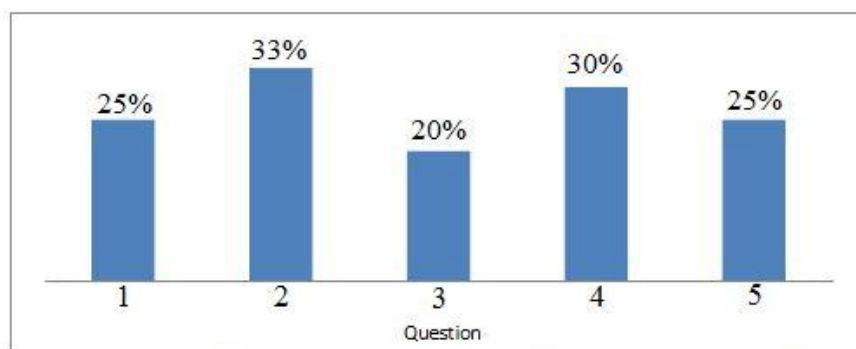


Figure 1. Pre-test results of participants' understanding about sexual abuse on women.

As seen in Figure 1, the pre-test results reveal that the initial knowledge of Sumbangsih Education Foundation Junior High School students in Neglasari Village, Katibung Subdistrict, South Lampung Regency regarding sexual abuse on women was still low, indicated by the fact that their level of understanding ranged from 20 to 33% for all questions given. This was due to the lack of education and information regarding the prevention and impacts of sexual abuse. Many female adolescents lack sufficient knowledge and understanding about how to handle potentially dangerous situations and protect themselves. Furthermore, the existing stigma and fear often prevent victims from reporting such incidents or seeking assistance. Thus, to enhance public knowledge and awareness about the harmful effects of sexual abuse on female adolescents, effective socialization efforts are necessary.

The material was presented by students from University of Lampung's Community Services Program (KKN) who were serving at the moment in Neglasari Village, Katibung Subdistrict, South Lampung Regency. The material covered the definition of sexual abuse, types of sexual abuse, the impacts of sexual abuse on physical and mental health, recovery and health support, and the roles of the related laws in sexual abuse cases.



Figure 2. Material presentation about sexual abuse.

After presentation, the activity continued with discussion and Q&A session. During the discussion, participants were active in asking many questions and showing interest in the issue of sexual abuse. Many participants asked about how to handle perpetrators of sexual abuse and how to prevent the occurrence of sexual abuse, as well as sharing their own experiences with sexual abuse cases. To encourage participants' enthusiasm, the community services team provided door prizes for participants who were active during the presentation and discussion sessions.



Figure 3. Door prizes for active participants during the socialization activity.

In the final session, the community services team conducted post-test to assess the level of participants' understanding after attending this socialization activity. This post-test presented five questions that were identical to those of pre-test.

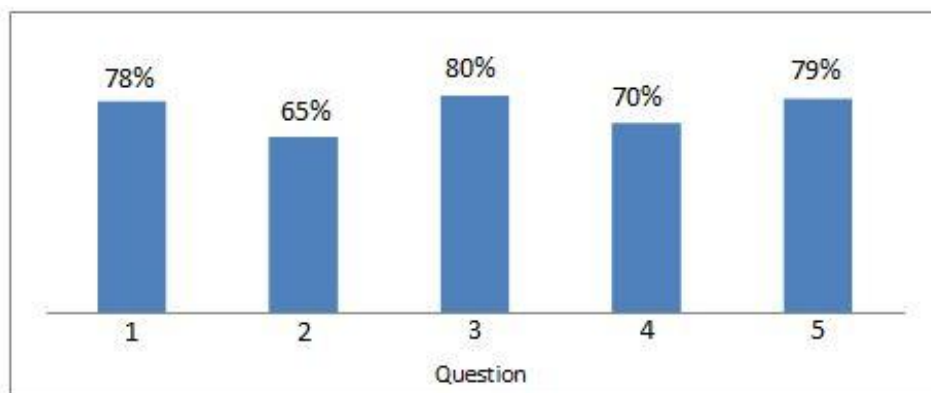


Figure 4. Post-test results of participants' understanding about sexual abuse on women.

As seen in the post-test results in Figure 4, it is evident that participants successfully increased their level of understanding, ranging from 65 to 80% for all questions given. This indicates that their knowledge and understanding about legal protection and the impacts of sexual abuse on women increased after attending the material presentation and participating in the discussion.



Figure 5. Photo session with socialization participants.

This community services activity aims to promote the increase in the number of socialization program conducted in schools and youth communities so that more young people, especially female adolescents, understand the importance of preventing and reporting sexual abuse cases. Through this socialization activity, adolescents in Neglasari Village were able to obtain relevant and accurate information about the impacts of sexual abuse, as well as learn how to support victims of sexual abuse and protect themselves. This socialization activity also serves as a guidance to raise public awareness in creating an environment that is safer and more attentive to the rights of adolescents.

4. Conclusions

The pre-test results reveal that the initial knowledge and understanding of Sumbangsih Education Foundation Junior High School students about sexual abuse on women was still low, indicated by the fact that their level of understanding ranged from 20 to 33% for all questions given. This was due to the lack of education and information about the prevention and impacts of sexual abuse. Through the socialization in this community services activity, participants were able to gain a better insights about sexual abuse, indicated by the post-test results that they successfully increased their level of understanding, ranging from 65 to 80% for all questions given. This indicates that their knowledge and understanding about legal protection and the impacts of sexual abuse on women increased after attending the material presentation and participating in the discussion. Through this activity, adolescents in Neglasari Village were able to obtain relevant and accurate information about the impacts of sexual abuse, learn how to support victims of sexual abuse and protect themselves, and become aware of the legal procedures available to protect victims of sexual abuse. This socialization activity thereby serves as a guidance for all related parties in preventing and handling sexual abuse cases as well as in creating a safer and supportive environment for women and children. Moreover, through this socialization activity, the attitudes and behaviors of the related community are also expected to change to be more courageous and caring in preventing and addressing sexual abuse cases.

5. Acknowledgment

We would like to thank all related parties from University of Lampung for the support provided, enabling us to contribute for educating adolescents in Neglasari Village. We would also like to express our gratitude to all parties involved in the implementation of this community services activity, particularly the principal and teachers of Sumbangsih Education Foundation Junior High School in Neglasari Village, Katibung Subdistrict, South Lampung Regency who had provided the permission and motivation to University of Lampung's Community Services Program (KKN) team, enabling this activity to took place smoothly.

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