

Factor analysis of reporting sexual harassment among students in East Java

Rizma Fithri ^{a *}, Syafruddin Faisal Thohar ^b

Universitas Islam Negeri Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Jl. Ahmad Yani No. 117, Surabaya, 60235 Indonesia

^a rizmafpk@uinsby.ac.id; ^b syaft.99@gmail.com

* Corresponding Author.

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Abstract: Sexual harassment is an act of sexuality in the form of physical or non-physical touching that can occur in various spheres of the environment, such as social or educational. However, not all individuals dare to report acts of sexual harassment. The purpose of this study was to determine the factors that may influence the reporting of acts of sexual harassment against students in East Java. This study uses a quantitative and qualitative approach. The research subjects totaled 102 people from a predetermined population using probability sampling technique. The results of this study indicate that the experience of sexual harassment (sig. of the change $0.000 < 0.05$) and cognitive perceptions/opinions (sig. of the change $0.054 > 0.05$) are factors that influence the reporting of acts of sexual harassment against students in East Java. This shows that there are many students who have experienced sexual harassment and the action that is most often taken is to report the perpetrator.

Keywords: Reporting, Acts of Sexual Harassment, College Student

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INTRODUCTION

Sexual harassment as defined by the draft law, encompasses actions that degrade, insult, attack, or engage in other activities against a person's body related to sexual desire, someone's sexual desire, reproductive function, forcibly, and against their will (Elindawati, 2021). Sexual harassment involves both physical and non-physical contact that makes the victim feel threatened and offended (Gutek, 2015). It can occur in various environments, including educational institutions, particularly universities (Ishak, 2020). Many students experience sexual harassment during their time at universities, resulting in a decline in mental and physical health, as well as academic performance (Reitanza, 2018). Additionally, academically affected students experience reduced academic satisfaction and performance (Suharyono & Digdowiseiso, 2021). The Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection provides data on sexual harassment cases in Indonesia. As of January 1, 2023, a total of 4,627 individuals, primarily aged 13-24, have reported experiencing sexual harassment (Kemenpppa, 2023). Sexual harassment incidents involving university students perpetrated by members of academic institutions remain a significant and researched issue. Research by Khafsoh and Suhairi (2021) reveals various Indonesian universities with reported cases, including the Universitas Negeri Sumatera Utara (USU) in Medan (Adam, 2019b), Universitas Diponegoro (UNDIP) Semarang (Adam, 2019a), Universitas Islam Negeri Sunan Malik Ibrahim (UIN Maliki) Malang (Zuhra, 2019). Universitas Islam Negeri Sunan Gunung Djati (UIN SGD) Bandung (Wijaya, 2019), Universitas Airlangga

(UNAIR) Surabaya (Faizal & Agriesta, 2020), and Universitas Islam Indonesia (UIN) Yogyakarta (Amindoni, 2020).

Individuals who experience sexual harassment often feel sadness, shame, anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, emotional instability, and an inability to control their emotions (Firmanda et al., 2023). Victims go through several psychological stages, including heightened anxiety, reduced performance, and decision-making challenges when reporting sexual harassment incidents (Orchowski & Gidycz, 2012). Moreover, the effects of sexual harassment cases on victims can influence their decision-making regarding reporting, affecting the determination to report such incidents. Reporting sexual harassment involves individuals informing authorities in an organization or institution about unwanted or sexually offensive experiences (Walker et al., 2019).

However, data from the National Commission on Violence Against Women (Komnas Perempuan) suggests a potential imbalance between reported and actual cases due to victims' reluctance to report such incidents (Trihastuti & Nuqul, 2020). Sexual harassment cases in academia often remain hidden because victims or survivors are reluctant to report their experiences. Power dynamics between faculty and students within educational institutions are a major factor contributing to underreporting (Karami et al., 2020).

The main reason for unreported cases of sexual harassment is a lack of clear understanding of what constitutes sexual violence (Khafsoh & Suhairi, 2021). It is essential for members of academic institutions to understand the mechanisms for reporting and addressing sexual violence on campus. This understanding is crucial when assessing students' knowledge of reporting sexual harassment incidents. Efforts should be made to increase the number of reported sexual harassment cases to relevant authorities or organizations. The decision-making process for victims of sexual harassment is a critical factor in initiating further action to address these cases.

Orchowski and Gidycz (2012) highlighted that victim decision-making regarding reporting sexual harassment incidents has not received sufficient attention, particularly in determining the decision to report. An increase in reported cases of sexual harassment will impact both victims and society. Greater awareness of these cases will improve the chances of victims receiving the necessary medical and psychological assistance to recover from traumatic events (Trihastuti & Nuqul, 2020). Given the background described, the study on reporting sexual harassment remains an intriguing topic for research. This study aims to examine the factors influencing the reporting of sexual harassment experienced by university students in East Java. The research benefits from identifying specific factors behind victims' decisions to report instances of sexual harassment.

METHODS

This study is quantitative research with probability sampling techniques. Probability sampling technique is a sampling technique that gives each element of the population an equal opportunity to be sampled (Levy & Lemeshow, 2013). The population used as research subjects in this case are male and female students who have studied at universities in East Java. The subjects in the study consist of 102 students in East Java. In order to be selected, the prospective subjects should have to the following characteristics: (1) male and female students studying at university in East Java; and (2) subjects who is a victim or have seen an incident that reveals sexual. This research is 4 months starting from May to August 2023. Data collection in this study used a questionnaire instrument containing questions aimed at obtaining information about the factors that influence reporting and not reporting sexual harassment. Quanti-

tative data collection was carried out using a questionnaire, in this research what was influenced was the type of participant as an observer, namely informing the researcher of the researcher's intentions regarding the object being studied using a questionnaire.

This study aims to determine the factors of reporting or not reporting sexual harassment which are explained using univariate and multivariate descriptive analysis. Statistical analysis in this research includes univariate, bivariate, and multivariate analysis using SPSS version 25 for Windows. Univariate analysis is a descriptive statistical test or frequency distribution which is intended to explain the characteristics of each variable studied (Norfai, 2022). Bivariate Chi Square analysis aims to determine the relationship between the independent variable and the dependent variable. If Sig. (P-Value) < 0.05, then there is a significant relationship between variables (Norfai, 2022). Multivariate analysis is used to identify and observe the most influential variables or factors in this research.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

The results of the univariate analysis in this study indicate that out of 102 respondents, 86 (84.3%) were female, and they were more dominant in experiencing sexual harassment compared to male respondents. Sexual harassment occurred within the age range of 18 to 23 years for 67 (65.7%) respondents. Among the respondents, 30 (29.4%) individuals had experienced sexual harassment, with various types of sexual harassment reported, including non-penetrative sexual harassment by 18 (17.6%), sexual intimidation by 30 (29.4%), and sexual harassment involving vaginal, anal, or oral penetration by 2 (2.0%). The majority of respondents in this study chose to report incidents of sexual harassment to the public, with 89 (87.3%) out of the total 102 respondents opting for this course of action.

Table 1. Univariate Result

Characteristics	Frequency (n=102)	Percentage (%)
Gender		
Woman	86	84,3
Man	16	15,7
Age		
15-17 tahun	35	34,3
18-23 tahun	67	65,7
Experiences of Sexual Harassment		
Never experienced	52	51,0
Never watched	20	19,6
Ever experienced	30	29,4
Types of Sexual Harassment		
Never experienced	52	51,0
Harassment by vaginal, anal, oral/oral penetration	2	2,0
Non-penetrative sexual harassment	18	17,6
Sexual intimidation	30	29,4
Sexual Harassment Reporting		
Not reporting	13	12,7
Reporting	89	87,3

Table 2. Results of Bivariate Analysis of Factors of Sexual Harassment on Reporting of Acts of Sexual Harassment

Variable	<i>p</i>
Experiences of Sexual Harassment	0,003
Types of Sexual Harassment	0,003
Reason for Reporting	0,695
Reasons for Not Reporting	0,000
Cognitive Perception	0,197

Based on the Table 2, it is evident that the factor of experiencing sexual harassment has an influence on reporting incidents of sexual harassment among university students, with a *p*-value of $0.003 < 0.05$. Furthermore, the type of sexual harassment also has an influence on reporting incidents of sexual harassment among university students, with a *p*-value of $0.003 < 0.05$. However, the experience of reasons for reporting does not have an influence on reporting incidents of sexual harassment among university students, with a *p*-value of $0.695 > 0.05$, whereas the experience of reasons for not reporting does have an influence on reporting incidents of sexual harassment among university students, with a *p*-value of $0.000 < 0.05$. Finally, cognitive perception does not have an influence on reporting incidents of sexual harassment among university students, with a *p*-value of $0.197 > 0.05$. However, this variable has a *p*-value of $0.197 > 0.25$, allowing it to be included in the multivariate analysis.

The results of the multivariate analysis in this study indicate that two variables are statistically significant and should be retained, namely, the variable of experiencing sexual harassment and cognitive perception/opinion.

Table 3. Logistic Regression Multivariate Analysis Results

Variable	Sig.of the Change	Exp(B)
Experiences of Sexual Harassment	0,000*	0,000
Cognitive Perception	0,054	184162959,603

Based on the Table 3, two variables have seen a change in the significance of the change, namely the variable of experiencing sexual harassment (sig. of the change $0.000 < 0.05$) and cognitive perception/opinion (sig. of the change $0.054 > 0.05$). This indicates that experiencing sexual harassment has a more significant and dominant influence on reporting incidents of sexual harassment among university students in East Java. This aligns with the research findings, where 87.3% of individuals chose to report incidents of sexual harassment, while 12.7% opted not to report.

Discussion

Reporting of sexual harassment was reported by almost all female participants and less frequently by men (Russell et al., 2021). This is consistent with what was found in this research, namely that as many as 86 (84.3%) female respondents experienced acts of sexual harassment and dominated more than male respondents. Other research continues to show that women tend to report more adverse outcomes after experiencing abusive situations than men. Evidence continues to show that women may experience negative mood, eating disorders, drug and alcohol abuse as well as long-term anxiety, stress (Cortina & Berdahl, 2008). Furthermore, most research shows that men who experience sexual harassment do not perceive the experience of sexual harassment as anxiety-provoking, nor do they view it as distressing, stressful, or upsetting as do women (Cortina & Berdahl, 2008). In other words, they found that high-frequency, low-intensity experiences of sexual harassment were as detrimental to women's

overall well-being as high-intensity, low-frequency experiences of sexual harassment. In general, students who have attended college/university for a longer period of time are at greater risk of experiencing sexual harassment. Kelley and Parsons (2000) also found that length of time at the university increased the frequency with which students in their sample indicated that they had experienced sexual harassment. This is in line with research conducted by Campbell et al. (2021) that undergraduate students who tend to spend more time on campus are more willing to report acts of sexual harassment when compared to postgraduate students. This is influenced by the psychological safety factors felt by the individual. Psychological safety has been shown to have a positive relationship with many attitudes and behaviors related to an individual's emotional state, activities, performance, commitment, and satisfaction (Walker et al., 2019).

Psychological safety can provide a sense of security for individuals, allowing them to operate in their environment without fear of consequences (Walker et al., 2019). Psychological safety refers to the belief that a person is safe in that environment to express themselves without fear of negative consequences (Walker et al., 2019). A person's experience of sexual harassment is related to the cognitive assessment formed within him. Cognitive appraisal relates to an individual's response to an experience, influenced by his primary assessment of whether the experience is a threat or not. It is based on the assumption that human emotions are built on evaluations of unpleasant events, which produce specific reactions among different people (Breitsohl & Garrod, 2016). In other words, only the individual himself can determine and decide on actions regarding his experiences, good or bad. Thus, regarding sexual harassment, this primary assessment can be conceptualized as the extent to which the target explicitly identifies himself as someone who is being bullied (Otoo et al., 2019).

Apart from that, social support from family, friends or close relatives can help create an atmosphere where individuals feel safe to report the sexual harassment they experience. Social support from friends, the environment and family is really needed in completing reports and going through everything (Hardjo & Novita, 2017). Specifically, social support can help build social norms that promote psychological safety because social support sets expectations for behavior that is intolerant of abuse and welcomes reporting and sanctioning abuse. Victims with high social support will easily open up to other people, while victims with low support will easily become psychologically disturbed (Walker et al., 2019). Therefore, climate analysis should examine the level of social support expressed and find ways to include training on supportive behaviors that can help in creating psychological safety and encourage individuals to report sexual harassment when it occurs (Walker et al., 2019). According to McDonald et al. (2016) ownership of responsibility for reporting sexual harassment often refers to vicarious liability, where organizations can be held liable unless they can establish that they took all reasonable steps to prevent the act or that they promptly corrected the wrongdoing. the. Reporting acts of sexual harassment is considered to have the effect of reducing acts of sexual harassment that occur. For reporting of acts of sexual harassment to be effective, this reporting must be part of a holistic and committed effort to combat sexual harassment with a focus on the specific culture and needs of a particular environment (Lipnic, 2016).

CONCLUSION

There are various factors that can trigger students to report incidents of sexual harassment, including cognitive assessment, organizational climate, psychological safety, and social support. In this study, the majority of respondents chose to report incidents of sexual harassment to the public, with 89 (87.3%) out of 102 respondents opting for this course of action. The research

results indicate that there is a dominant factor influencing the reporting of sexual harassment incidents, namely cognitive assessment related to the experience of sexual harassment (sig. of the change $0.000 < 0.05$).

This means that the way individuals cognitively assess and perceive their experiences of sexual harassment plays a significant role in their decision to report such incidents. This finding highlights the importance of understanding the psychological aspects and cognitive processes that individuals go through when they experience sexual harassment and consider reporting it. It also underscores the need for interventions and support systems that can address and enhance the cognitive assessment process, ultimately encouraging more individuals to report incidents of sexual harassment and seek justice.

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