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# NYIMAK

## Journal of Communication

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## Power Relations and Patriarchy Politics on Dating Violence

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### ABSTRACT

National Commission for Women (NCW) recorded 2,500 cases of violence against women in January-July 2021. This figure exceeded the 2020 record of only 2,400 cases. The number of case complaints in 2020 also increased by 68 per cent compared to 2019, which recorded around 1,419 cases. Violence in dating relationships, characterized by patriarchal values, is one sort of violence that occurs frequently. This research uses the theory of violence, the concept of power relations, patriarchal politics, and date violence. The research focuses on power relations and patriarchal politics as causes of date violence. The findings indicated that dating couples experienced psychological and emotional violence but not sexual violence. The violence takes various forms, including hitting, scolding, ignoring, forcing, controlling, and harsh speech. Women are typically the victims, while men are the perpetrators. Power relations as the cause of power's emergence must be considered equal. The relationship is based on justice and equality, not overpowering the other. Patriarchal cultural values remain prevalent in socio-cultural construction, starting from the family. Because the media, particularly social media, are also a source of violence, the extent of the issue is growing. Various media information is used as a reference in developing relationships.

**Keywords:** Dating violence, power relations, patriarchal politics

### ABSTRAK

Komnas Perempuan mencatat telah terjadi 2.500 kasus kekerasan terhadap perempuan pada periode Januari-Juli 2021. Angka itu melampaui catatan tahun 2020 yang hanya 2.400 kasus. Jumlah pengaduan kasus pada 2020 pun naik 68 persen dibandingkan 2019 yang mencatat sekitar 1.419 kasus. Salah satu bentuk kekerasan yang banyak berlangsung adalah kekerasan dalam hubungan pacaran ditenggarai oleh nilai-nilai patriarki. Penelitian menggunakan teori kekerasan, konsep relasi kuasa, Politik Patriarki, Kekerasan dalam pacaran (KDP). Fokus penelitian adalah realasi kuasa dan politik patriarki sebagai penyebab KDP. Hasil penelitian pasangan pacaran mengalami kekerasan psikis dan emosional, namun tidak mengalami kekerasan seksual. Kekerasan tersebut dalam berbagai bentuk, seperti memukul, memarahani, mengabaikan, memaksa, mengatur dan berkata kasar. Perempuan menjadi korban sedangkan laki-laki cenderung sebagai pelaku. Perempuan mengalami kekerasan. Relasi kuasa sebagai alasan munculnya kekuasaan harus dipahami setara dan hubungan dijalankan atas dasar keadilan, kesetaraan, bukan satu menguasai yang lainnya. Konstruksi sosial budaya mulai ruang keluarga masih kental nilai budaya patriarki. Persoalan semakin mengental karena media khususnya media sosial juga menjadi sumber kekerasan. Berbagai informasi media menjadi rujukan dalam membangun hubungan.

**Kata Kunci:** Kekerasan dalam pacaran (dating violence), relasi kuasa, politik patriarki,

## INTRODUCTION

Based on the Annual Report from the Indonesian National Commission for Women for 2022, violence against women has continued to increase in the last three years. The annual report records the dynamics of 338,496 cases of gender-based violence against women reported to the National Commission for Women, service agencies, and Religious Courts. Gender-based violence against women increased by 50%, with 338,496 cases reported in 2021. (from 226,062 cases in 2020). Complaint data to the National Commission for Women increased by 80%, from 2,134 cases in 2020 to 3,838 cases in 2021. (National Commission for Women Press Release, 2022). Online media shows the victim's side, suggesting they caused the problem by wearing loose clothes, going out at night, provoking lust, or travelling alone (Indainanto, 2020).

On the other hand, exposure to online media and social media helps shape public opinion through positive support for victims, increases the attention of relevant officials, and encourages victims and those closest to them to report crimes by fostering self-confidence and courage (speak up). On the other hand, online media coverage of sexual violence tends to inspire some individuals to commit violence. In this context, the media has a political function, which is to inform and educate, but it also has a negative effect, which is to provoke the emergence of violent behaviour against women (Holilah, 2017; Indainanto, 2020). The media is keenly interested in reporting on prevalent violence cases because they have news value and can influence the public. In online media coverage, women are frequently stigmatized and stereotyped based on subjective and inappropriate prejudice (Safira et al., 2022).

The irony is that there are numerous reports of sexual violence in online media. The incidents occur in locations formerly regarded as safe, including schools, colleges, and Islamic boarding schools. The victims varied, including students, university students, civil servants, prisoners' spouses, and people with disabilities. Sexual harassment and violence are akin to a submerged iceberg. There are significantly more unsolved cases than solved ones. Cases of date violence occurred at Jakarta State University (Makdori; Liputan 6, 2021) and Yogyakarta Muhammadiyah University (Wawan; Detik.com, 2022)—twenty-nine female students at Udayana University, Denpasar Bali.

The consumption of violent media texts frequently causes various forms of violence. Various media reported the amount of violence experienced by women in various forms. The media, in various formats, makes information readily available to the public. The development of information technology has brought in social media, which offer multiple conveniences that make it comfortable for adolescents to surf cyberspace for a long time. Facebook, Twitter,

YouTube, Line, Instagram, Whatsapp, BBM, and others are among the most popular social media platforms utilized by adolescents today. This social media platform is divided into two categories based on its primary function: social networking and chat applications. Sexual harassment begins with individual issues and escalates to broader crime issues grounded in a society's cultural, social, economic, and political values (Adrina, 1995; Supanto, 2004; Indiananto, 2020). Sexual harassment begins with personal issues and escalates to broader crime issues rooted in a society's cultural, social, economic, and political values (Indainanto, 2020).

Based on data from the Online Information System for the Protection of Women as of January 2, 2022, shows 10,247 cases of violence occurred throughout 2021. There was an increase of 348% in the number of complaints affected by the pandemic condition, particularly Cyber Gender-Based Violence, from 409 incidents in 2019 to 1,425 cases in 2020 (Portal MNC, 2021). Report of the Faculty of Law, University of Indonesia (Website FHUI, 2021), A report from the Faculty of Law, University of Indonesia, shows that online-based gender violence is estimated to increase by more than 40% in 2020, from 281 cases in 2019 to 659 cases in the last ten months. WHO also confirms that 1 in 3 women experience violence (WHO, 2010).

Violence is a form of the power imbalance between the roles of women and men, resulting in dominance and discrimination in women's lives. Gender dominance is a subjectivity that shapes one gender's conception of sexuality. Men are regarded as the dominant gender in multiple socio-cultural values. According to Foucault (Rohmaniyah, 2018), Power relations in a power system that regulates sexual practices can be an open strategy for preventing the misuse of power from creating power relations that are detrimental to women. This power imbalance is the core cause of violence against women, including sexual violence.

Women face various forms of violence, including physical, emotional or psychological, economic, and activity-restriction violence. Of the various types of violence, the most common type was sexual violence, as much as 38%. Most victims are young people, and women experience 71% of violence. One of the violence that women often experience is dating violence (Nurtjahyo, 2021). A pattern of behaviour used to exert power or control over a dating partner creates date violence. Date violence includes any behaviour aimed at 1) manipulation, 2) gaining control, 3) gaining power over someone, 4) making someone feel bad about themselves or others close to this person (such as friends or family), and 5) causing fear in someone of him or his girlfriend. (The Foundation Health Youth, Website, 2020).

Existing cases and data demonstrate that date violence is a serious issue that requires immediate attention. Physical, emotional, and sexual violence can occur during the courtship phase (Website Violence Prevention Works, 2020). Typically, emotional and verbal violence precedes physical or sexual violence in dating relationships. This view is the basis for all aspects of society based on the hierarchical relationships between men and women. Based on this background information, the primary research questions are as follows: 1) what are the causes and forms of date violence experienced by women (college students), and 2) why do patriarchal political power relations lead to acts of date violence among college students? The purpose of this research is to find out the forms and factors that cause date violence and how patriarchal political power relations become the cause of violence to be achieved in the research process based on the formulation of the research problem. The formulation of the problem of this research is to find out the causes and forms of date violence experienced by women (college students) and interpret the relationship between power relations and patriarchal politics as the causes of date violence.

Unbalanced power relations are the reason for violence, and the victims are generally women or other marginalized groups. As a result of construction based on gender differences, a subjective understanding of sex influences behaviour. According to Michlel Foucault, there are four dangerous discourses in social construction: politics (power), desire (sexuality), insanity, and what is considered false or true (Lubis, 2014; Sumintak & Idi, 2022). This understanding and behaviour have implications for thoughts and behaviour of sexual violence in education. The dominant power is believed to create unequal and unfair relationships with women. The understanding and behaviour of unbalanced power relations result from socio-cultural constructions that generate dominant behaviour.

Constructing understanding and behaviour towards women's sustainability occurs in social interaction from a psychological and sociological perspective. From a sociological perspective, men and women are polarized into a culture as "opposites" and "different." It indicates that men are superior to women (patriarchy). This polarization is entrenched in various systems of community life, both in the social, cultural, educational, language, political, economic and legal fields (Prihatin, 2017; Sumintak & Idi, 2022). The imbalance of power relations resulting from patriarchal culture creates subjectivity in understanding the relationships between men and women, including sexuality.

According to Michel Foucault, there are three aspects to comprehending sexuality: 1) the formation or formation of sexuality-related knowledge, including behaviour; 2) a system of power that regulates the practice of sexuality or a model of normativity; and 3) forms in which individuals can recognize or are forced to recognize themselves as sexual subjects or

forms of subjectivity (Rohmaniyah, 2017). This comprehension occurs in social interactions that bind gender-based constructions. The social structure of a society regulates the mechanism of women and men based on cultural norms and values, resulting in unequal social, political, and economic interactions. In an unbalanced power structure, violence against women manifests as patriarchal culture, dominant structural aspects, and unequal bargaining positions between men and women (Sumintak & Idi, 2022).

Unbalanced power relations cause women and other marginalized groups to become targets. Women are not political targets or objects but subjects in the political process so that power can positively impact their lives. Nevertheless, power is unjust when dominant power is not used for fair construction. Helliwel and Hinds (Taylor, 1999; Wahid, 2013) stated that power is having control and the power to rule over other parties due to an understanding of patriarchal culture which positions men as the gender that has dominant power so that it becomes an unequal political cause for women. Patriarchal politics is very detrimental to women in any relationship, including dating relationships. Violence arises related to cultural ideology or prevailing values, types of social structures and relational patterns between men and women (Hasbi, 2015). A patriarchal system provides unequal power relations between men and women. Power is a way of establishing relations between ordinary people and political society (Wahid, 2013).

In the understanding of research, violence against women is influenced by the understanding of the dominant group (men) who use their dominant power to act unfairly. The thought results from constructing a patriarchal culture that places men with their masculinity as more dominant than women. This view has become the leading cause of all life sectors based on ordinate and sub-ordinate relations between men and women. It forms what Michel Foucault calls a subjective understanding which then births violent behaviours because women are understood not to have equal power as men.

The phenomenon of violence occurs in all parts of life, both in the domestic sector and household, as well as in the public sector in various forms. The existence of a patriarchal system that provides unequal power relations between men and women causes violence. Women subjectively tend to be understood as the second sex. The reality of women is shaped and interpreted by men's subjectivity, which unfairly uses their dominance of power so that violence becomes one of the methods of showing men's power. The different subjective realities of men and women create different power relations, where men having dominant power use power unfairly and harm women. The practice of different power relations is more detrimental to women in socio-cultural life. Even politics is suspected to result from a long and continuous process of the values of the patriarchal cultural system. Based on this



understanding, violence against women in a relationship occurs, including in dating relationships (dating violence).

According to Narah and Sakaria (2015), men dominate women, and women are always viewed as second-class citizens. The abstract manifestation of patriarchy is a system of social relations. On a less abstract level, patriarchal structures consist of patriarchal modes of production, patriarchal relations in wage-earning jobs, and patriarchal relations within the state (Ramadhan, 2017). Following Article 3 of Law No. 23 of 2002 on Child Protection and as clarified in Chapter III of Article 5 of Law No. 2004 on the Elimination of Domestic Violence, violence includes physical, psychological, sexual, and neglectful behaviour. Both physical and sexual violence against children exists in various forms (Utami, 2018). Violence against women is violence committed by men against women, also known as domestic violence (Hasanah, 2013).

Violence takes the form of violent actions, words, attitudes, and violent structures or systems. Conflict is a relationship between two or more parties (individuals or groups) who have or perceive incompatible goals (Jamil, 2007; Dachrud, 2019). Psychological and environmental obstacles prevent people from reaching their full potential. Violence against women occurs due to the cultural conditioning of patriarchy (Tong, 2014; Ramadhan, 2017). Alienation separates women from their bodies, leading to a cycle of violence against them because their bodies are no longer seen as anything more than tools for social reproduction (Ramadhan, 2017). According to the findings of other studies, violent behaviour occurs within the context of a cultural and structural framework. The term “structural violence” refers to any violence that does not directly cause injury or death but instead performs to create conditions such as poverty, economic inequality, or social and political injustice through social structures. (Galtung in Herlambang, 2013). On the other hand, cultural violence refers to things that are part of the culture, like religion and ideology, language and art, and empirical knowledge.

Violence is experienced by women when dating. Dating is a relationship between two acquainted people who frequently engage in activities together to express love, comfort, and mutual affection, which can lead to a future commitment (Nurwindawati & Damaiyanti, 2021). Men and women are equally vulnerable to experiencing violent behaviour in dating (Soba et al., 2018). Date violence occurs when someone intentionally hurts or scares their partner. Violence is not only physical, psychological and sexual violence but also economic violence (Nurwindawati & Damayanti, 2021). Violence in courtship is known as aggressive and controlling behaviour towards a partner. The types of violence experienced by victims can be psychological, physical, sexual, or a combination (National Center for Victims of

Crime, 2012). There are a series of short- and long-term negative impacts for victims who experience date violence (American Psychological Association, 2002).

Violence occurs when a person violates the law and uses unlawful physical force to injure oneself or others. Mansour Fakh (2012) defines violence as an assault or invasion of a person's mental or emotional integrity. Sexual violence is one form of violence. Sexual violence is a significant and intricate issue on all maps of violence against women due to the numerous dimensions that are particularly specific to women. Sexual violence against women is deeply embedded in the problem of unequal power relations between perpetrators and victims. In sexual violence against women, the power imbalance is between men and women (Rosy & Wahid, 2015).

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

The research approach used is qualitative and case study methods. This type of research uses qualitative methods. According to Creswell (2018: 24), qualitative research methods try to find the meaning of a phenomenon from the participants' views. Creswell (2018) explains that a case study is a research strategy for carefully investigating something by gathering complete information using various data collection procedures. At the same time, Yin (2012), case studies allow researchers to maintain the holistic and meaningful characteristics of actual life events and unique strengths. The research focuses on dating couples at several universities in Jakarta to find the forms and factors of date violence and interpret patriarchal political power relations, which have implications for the emergence of date violence in these couples—equipped with expert sources from National Commission for Women.

Data collection techniques use intensive or in-depth interviews. Depth interview is a qualitative data collection technique that can be used for various purposes and is most appropriate for asking open-ended questions that elicit in-depth information from relatively few people (Guion et al., 2011). Interviews can be broadly categorized into structured, semi-structured and unstructured (Showkat, 2017). The informants of this study are six dating couples who commit and experience date violence, including student couples in dating relationships on five campuses and experts who observe issues and cases of date violence. The research was conducted for 6 (six) months, from March to August 2022, at several universities in Jakarta. Interviews were conducted online using the Zoom media application.

## RESULTS

In date violence, women are the primary targets of violence. One of the reasons is the patriarchal culture which is the foundation of socio-culture in Indonesian society. Referring to Mansur Fakhri (2013) states that patriarchal culture is the leading cause of violent behaviour in dating because patriarchy is a very legitimate tool to maintain asymmetrical relationships between men and women. The patriarchy establishes distinctions in the behaviour, status, and power of men and women, establishing a gender hierarchy. Wahid (2013) explains that this patriarchal understanding causes the construction of the concept of women to be discriminatory and advantageous for men, who tend to be said to dominate, which is reinforced by socio-cultural values.

Men are dominant over women, who are considered subordinate. According to Narah and Sakaria (2015), men always dominate women, and women are always viewed as second-class citizens. As a system of social structure and date violence practices, patriarchal thought and understanding are explained by societal facts, such as date violence relationships. It indicates a systematic and structured social system in which men dominate, control, and determine the processes and forms of date violence.

According to the results of interviews, every couple has a purpose for their relationship. In the age range of 20 to 25 years, all couples have gone through dating several times, ranging from two to four times. It is based on an interview with Informant 1 (Esmeralda), who has experienced dating twice. Esmeralda mentioned that having a dating relationship is identical to having close friends and a convenient place to share stories and exchange ideas. The following is Esmeralda's statement::

***"Dating is all about looking for friends to share. That is the reason, mostly. Fajri is the name of my boyfriend." (Interview, 26 May 2022, 07.00 – 08.30 P.M.)"***

According to informants Melati and Bimo, the reason for dating was that they needed friends to share stories with and chose to date each other because they have chemistry and could discuss anything, particularly regarding daily activities, hobbies, and similar topics. The second informant has said that:

*"We chose to date because we have chemistry, we enjoy chatting, so it is fun if we talk about film genres; for example, we have the same hobbies." (Interview, 25 May 2022, 07.00 – 08.45 P.M.)"*

Unhealthy dating relationships are caused by power dynamics, in which men assert they are more dominant and significant than women. Both claim that neither is more powerful

than the other. They frequently discuss what they want and need to do, even while carrying out various activities during lectures. Consider discussing and compromising on the decisions they wish to make. Bimo called this technique "Love Balance." It implies that both parties attempt to achieve a balance in the relationship, even though one disagrees with the decision. It is done to keep balance in their relationship.

True partners should love, adore, defend, and make one another happy. However, not all couples agree with this perspective. It could be the result of violent childhood experiences in a violent family. Informant 4 did not commit or endure violence, which may have resulted from the informant's reasons for dating, specifically, "dating relationships are shaped to seek experiences together." Relationships are formed so that partners can increase productivity and carry out activities together. The primary purpose of the activities performed is to increase self- and partner development. These factors can make the partnership more transparent, mutually supportive, and goal-oriented.

Unbalanced power relations between women and men cause violence against women. Siti Aminah Tardi's view, on June 18, 2022 interview, stated that different power relations are a strong reason for men to commit violence against women. Women are in situations where they are vulnerable to violence and tend to be easily manipulated by other genders. These circumstances are increasingly vulnerable in dating relationships because there is no legal force. However, multiple conditions are manipulated so that women experience various forms of violence.

Violence can be both physical and verbal, as well as nonverbal. Physical, psychological (emotional), and sexual violence exist. Numerous informants experienced psychological violence in the form of 1) ignoring the partner's feelings, 2) insulting the partner's opinion or principles, 3) insulting, 4) selfish partner, 5) isolating the partner from the environment, 6) lying, 7) forbidding the partner to leave, 8) threatening self-harm, 9) being pressured, 10) being humiliated, 11) being suspected, and 12) having to report through Whatsapp call or phone call 7-10 times a day. Five couples and two (2) female informants who had undergone psychological abuse indicated that they (informants 4) did not feel and were unaware that what they had experienced was considered violence. According to Rosyidah and Nurdin (2018), sexual harassment is not confined to violence and acts of physical violence; various actions and approaches relating to unwanted sex can be considered sexual harassment.

Several reasons were raised by informants regarding why they persisted for quite a long time, even though they had experienced violence, including 1) loving their partner, 2) needing friends, 3) dependence on their partner, 4) still being able to forgive, and so on. According to data compiled by the National Commission for Women (NCW) in its 2020 annual report: Fact

Sheet and Key Points, there were at least 1,309 cases of partner violence (NCW, 2020)—in a journal conducted by Ben-Porat and Itzhaky, Davhana-Maselesele, Horwitz, and Skiff, it was stated that several victims of unhealthy relationships still maintain romantic partner relationships. The percentage of women who survive in toxic relationships is as much as 40% to 70% of victims of toxic relationships still return to their partners and maintain the relationship (Azhari, 2022).

According to the Opinion of the Commissioner from NCW, Siti Aminah Tardi (June 18, 2022), she was stated that the victim took advantage of the perpetrator for various reasons, i.e. love, sympathy, fear of being abandoned, possibly even threatened by the perpetrator, so that the victim became even more terrified. The conflict resolution phase begins with the conflict experienced by women. An incubation period or debate, even silence for a particular time, forgiveness, after which the honeymoon occurs, but then the violence is repeated again and again. These phases occurred in the cycle of violence, which occurred repeatedly and created the date violence cycle.

Victims also endured verbal violence in addition to physical violence. The victim is unable to accept but also incapable of resisting. When experiencing violence, they cry and then return to forgive their partner and accept them back out of 'affection' and a fear of loss. Because they fear losing their boyfriends, they do not dare to refuse or fight. According to the findings of an interview conducted with Laila on June 7, 2022, as follows:

*“Whenever he was furious, ma’am, he frequently abused me verbally by yelling at me and called me unpleasant names. Use abusive language, such as calling me “dog” and “prostitute” and other similar terms. It happened frequently. Because I am a normal person who cannot be yelled at, I could only cry and remain quiet if he yelled at me. I attempt to speak politely to him, express my feelings, and speak carefully, but he responds with harsh language and rude comments.”*

Initially, dating relationships are enjoyable due to the attention and feeling of being appreciated. However, over time, the opposite is felt due to the partner's behaviour; those are a) possessive (in this case, the man tends to doubt and limit the woman's independence because he is suspicious of disloyalty), b) requires meeting him daily; as a form of love and loyalty to a partner, so that men can easily supervise women and want to obey their wishes because men want all their orders to be obeyed, and c) It is a kind of male control over women, and d) prohibiting informants from working and requiring them to stay at home; It is an action to restrict women's freedom and strengthen their psychological and economic dependence on males.

Five (5) of six (6) respondents reported experiencing physical, psychological, or emotional violence. Emotional violence encountered during courtship includes 1) being ignored by partners, 2) toxic relationships, 3) physical violence such as slaps, 4) verbal violence in emotional conditions, and 5) mental harm. According to the three informants, this behaviour harms women in this situation. They typically remain in the relationship because they do not wish to trigger more severe issues, such as threats and worries.

As a result of violence, women constantly fear expressing themselves or speaking up. Victims always forgive perpetrators, even repeatedly experiencing violence from perpetrators. Because they were frightened, the victims lacked the courage to act and behave to stop the relationship. However, there are other factors to consider, such as: a) physical and emotional or psychological violence. b) Verbal violence, c) extreme jealousy, 4) depression, 5) excessive love for the victim, 6) arbitrary behaviour, 7) physical aggression, 8) emotional reliance, 9) irrationality, and 10) unable to refuse. Unbalanced relationships are typically fraught with conflict. On the one hand, women are uncomfortable in relationships and suffer dating violence, but on the other side, they persist. The informants frequently endured compulsion and the demand to meet daily, which they found exhausting, but they chose to survive. Even so, they continue to assume that they can change and lead their partners to be more understanding and less prone to imposing their will. Three (3) informants admitted that power dynamics in a relationship were uneven and that patriarchal politics influenced understanding and behaviour. Intriguingly, the male partners do not comprehend patriarchy, do not feel pressured, do not make commitments, and have never encountered violence in dating relationships. Even though women claim there is no issue, men claim there are conflicts with their relationships since their partners frequently disregard them.

## **DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

### **Power Relations and Patriarchal Politics on Date violence**

Date violence is a pattern of behaviour used to exert power or control over a dating partner. 1) manipulate, 2) acquire control, 3) gain power over someone, 4) make someone feel horrible about themselves or someone close to them (such as friends or family), and 5) make someone terrified of him. (The Foundation Healthy Youth, website, 2020).

Sexual violence results from a societal construction process that influences views and attitudes and manifests itself in the behaviour of individuals in intimate relationships, including romantic relationships. As a form of violence in student relationships, date violence reflects real-world actions in various forms, including physical, psychological or emotional, and sexual violence. Patriarchal cultural norms have become ingrained 'policy' in society

because, until recently, it has been difficult to dissect, alter, or eradicate the relationship between men and women. Women are “silenced” and tend to accept violent behaviour.

When in a relationship, respondents tend to accept repeated acts of violence. The victims’ silence or reluctance to speak up’ results from their worry about their partner’s reaction, who could become upset, say something rude, or even hit. The victims chose to remain silent not because they feared the reaction of their parents or surroundings but because the environment already believed that they had all expressed that the dating relationship was unhealthy and would harm the victims. However, the fact remains that the perpetrators continued to commit violence despite the victim’s silence. It even got worse.

Women prefer to remain silent and not report sexual abuse that they experience as a result of cultural construction experiences. The experience of patriarchal culture is firmly embedded and shapes men’s subjectivity towards reality, including how they treat women as members of the social culture where communication occurs. According to Foucault (Rohmaniyah, 2017), men’s subjective experience determines their actions in social interactions. This means the dominant understanding they believe so far forms how they treat women because the power system regulates the practice of sexuality and the model of normality. Men and women accept the construction process to accept the forms individuals can recognize or are forced to recognize themselves as subjects of sexuality or forms of subjectivity. Foucault emphasizes that men and women have their desires within themselves. Yet, they are regulated from the outside in the form of obtained values that bind their understanding of reality (Kebung, 2017).

Ironically, the dominant power groups use power unfairly, causing injustice, discrimination and even violence against women. The dominant power group is not responsible for their behaviour and creates unequal power relations practices in social interaction. Foucault (Kabungm: 2017) states that the existence of individual freedom, as the most critical entity, should be followed by responsibility. Responsibility will be able to create power relations through practices that are not gender biased.

Unbalanced power relations raise violence against women manifested in a patriarchal culture, dominating structural aspects and unequal bargaining positions between men and women (Sumintak & Idi, 2022). If power is used repressively and denominatively, it will be practised to control other people so that in such conditions, violence occurs. The practice of violence against women is a form of repressive and dominative born from genealogical methods. Foucault said human relations and how power is practised in the culture of human communication (Kebung, 2017). Violent behaviour will not stop if the dominant power possessed by men is practised irresponsibly.

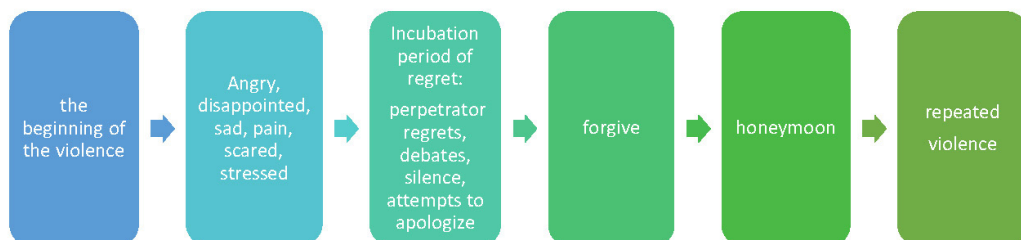


Perpetrators tend to repeat violent acts, although victims tend to forgive for the reasons mentioned. At the end of the cycle of violence, parties' support is required so that victims dare to reject harassment and even report it to law enforcement agencies. In dating, women are frequently perceived as susceptible to physical, psychological, and sexual aggression (National Commission PPA, 2017). Guidi (in Nazmi, 2017) stated that psychological issues and perceived well-being are the most significant effects of the problem of sexual violence on women in dating relationships.

Power relationships are the primary cause of violence against women. The violence occurs like a wheel whose cycle is perpetually revolving. This cycle 'carries on women as victims, which is difficult to let go of because there are phases of tension, violence, and honeymoon (forgiving phase). The cycle of violence experienced by women can likely result in suicide intentions and deeds, or as NCW refers to it, 'Penisida'. According to Siti Aminah Tardi (June 18, 2022), women are committing suicide as a result of gender inequality or the peak of gender-based violence. The majority is also found in intimate relationships. Understanding patriarchal culture leads to uneven power relations, which is the primary cause of men manipulating women, resulting in many sorts of violence. Efforts to resolve violence are not simple and require time and certain phases.

The phases of resolving date violence that causes violence to recur, and women will experience repeated violence. Power relations are a significant factor in establishing male dominance because men have a subjective view of sexuality that determines their behaviour (Rohmaniyah, 2017). These phases are supported by an interview with Siti Aminah Tardi (18 June 2022), who explains that it is difficult for women to escape acts of violence from their partners due to the dominance of emotional attachments and power relationships in women's understanding of and behaviour toward their partners when they experience violence.

The processes involved in resolving date violence are as follows:



**Figure 1. Date violence Completion Phase**  
(Phase Design Based on Data and Research Analysis, 2022)



During the phases or stages of the violence and its resolution, the victim appears to be in good health, although subjected to extreme torture and pressure, suffering bruises or injuries, and even being hospitalized. The honeymoon phase involves forgiveness, regret, and the offender's pledge to refrain from repeating the offence. As a result of their emotions, victims prefer to forgive their perpetrators in the belief that they will treat them better in the future and not conduct violence again. Some violent attitudes and behaviours in dating relationships include 1) Lying, 2) Manipulative, 3) Blaming, 4) Hitting, 5) being Angry, 5) Drunk, and Verbal Violence (harsh words).

Every couple should strive to strengthen their relationships and boost their productivity. These factors can make the partnership more transparent, mutually supportive, and goal-oriented. NCW Commissioner Siti Aminah Tardi noted, "Women are subjected to physical, psychological, and sexual violence. There are various forms of violence that women experience. As a result of unequal "power relations" between women and men, violence against women continues to occur. Siti Aminah Tardi claimed (Interview, 18 June 2022) that an imbalance of power is a significant cause of why men commit violence against women. In situations where they are vulnerable to violence, women are typically subjected to manipulation by other genders. Referring to (Mubina & Agustin, 2022), dating situations involving power interactions do not always cause couples to separate. The majority of couples can maintain their romantic connection despite the presence of violence, including sexual harassment.

Anyone is the potential to be a victim or perpetrator of violence. Therefore, the following factors led to its occurrence: 1) Unequal power relations; men utilize their power to dominate in dating relationships, resulting in sexual violence against women. Understanding of masculinity and femininity; males are viewed as masculine, i.e., more muscular, powerful, and rational, while women are viewed as feminine, i.e., weak, compromised, and irrational; hence, men rule women's reality. 3) Women are subordinated by societal structure and system; patriarchal politics positions women as subordinate and men as superior. 4) Boys are not taught how to treat women; knowledge regarding how men should treat women is inadequate, and cultural norms encourage unequal treatment of women. 5) Relationships do not encourage the development of assertive communication; mutual, open communication based on an awareness of each other's conditions and situations is not developed, so women are always required to listen to men. 6) Differences in social construction are viewed as a necessity; differences in relational understanding are viewed as a necessity, as opposed to something that can be discussed and selected based on everyday needs and possibilities. 7) Education that is not based on gender equality; there is still a lack of gender-based knowledge in

education. Physically, men and women are different, but this is not an excuse for mistreatment. 8) Social status; in some societies, men are viewed as having a more excellent status than women. Hence the majority of opportunities are provided to men. Men are typically manipulative to maintain dominance in relationships.

The belief that women may be easily frightened, restrained, and beaten to the point of humiliation reinforces the stereotype that women lack significant relational power. The victim's choice to 'keep quiet' or not speak out is mainly motivated by fear of the partner's reaction, who may rage and remark rudely or even hit. Thus, the victim or informer decides to suffer repeated acts of violence. In this study, the respondent opposed the application of patriarchal politics to their relationship. According to the informant, the degrees between men and women are now equivalent.

Power relationships are the primary cause of violence against women. The violence that happens is like a cycle wheel that continues to whirl and repeat. The act of committing violence occurs because a wheel of violence appears to arise. It then develops a cycle of violence, which influences why victims of violence are in dating relationships or the family. This cycle's hold on women as victims is difficult to break because it involves tension, violence, and honeymoon phases. The honeymoon phase or guilt, and will not repeat the behaviour. According to Munti (2022), a cycle of violence is characterized by a recurring pattern of conflict and stress, followed by violence, a period of peace and wedded bliss, and so on. After regrets and apologies, there is a "cool down and honeymoon period" where the perpetrator's attitude is more generous or pleasant.

Violence against women, including date violence, happens due to the cultural conditioning of patriarchal values. As a result of alienation, women are alienated from their bodies, and their bodies are used for societal reproduction, and violence against women may occur (Ramadhan, 2017). Additionally, violence can occur within a social and cultural framework. Social structures that generate poverty, economic imbalance, or social and political injustice create structural violence (Galtung in Herlambang, 2013). The existence of date violence resulted from patriarchal politics, which continues to revere men as leaders; consequently, the domination over women persists. It implies that socio-cultural experience provides a framework for considering the positions and relationships between men and women.

Patriarchal politics is almost inseparable from people's daily lives, particularly in nations where socio-culture is inherent. In an unequal power structure, men employ a sense of power to assert dominance over women and other subordinate groups through various discriminating attitudes and acts. As a form of violence in student relationships, date violence

represents actual acts of physical, psychological, emotional, and sexual aggression. According to Mansur Fakhri (2013), a patriarchal society is the leading cause of date violence because patriarchy is a legitimate tool for maintaining unequal relationships between men and women. The inequalities in behaviour, status, and power between men and women patriarchy shape a gender hierarchy. Research (Namrah & Sakaria, 2015; Kollo, 2017) shows that women are weak, non-independent, and dependent. This perspective gets considerable legitimacy in the political sphere, causing them to support the patriarchal culture. According to Wahid (2013), this patriarchal perspective causes the development of the concept of women to be discriminatory and to the benefit of men. According to Narah and Sakaria (2015), men control women, and women are always considered inferior.

## CONCLUSION

In a study, the conclusion is an essential element that summarizes the research findings. Based on the research findings, this study indicates that women are disadvantaged because their partners view them as weak (existing relationships). The belief that women may be easily frightened, restrained, and beaten to the point of humiliation reinforces the stereotype that women lack significant relational power.

Different power relationships between men and women result from patriarchal cultural values. Among college students, dating violence is a frequent form of aggression (i). There are consequences for personal and societal interactions, including dating relationships, resulting from these various power relationships. Power relationships and patriarchal politics are the causes of sexual violence against women. Men, as the dominant gender in patriarchal societies, possess excessive power, resulting in uneven communication and interaction between men and women as partners. The patriarchal cultural ideals that tend to place men over women have been established and embedded in people's minds.

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