



The Role of Legal Aid and Consultation Agencies by Faculty of Law University of Muhammadiyah Sukabumi in Preventing Domestic Violence

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Abstract

This research was conducted to examine the suboptimal governmental, social, and law enforcement efforts in reducing domestic violence, particularly the insufficient legal support provided by legal aid institutions for domestic violence cases in Sukabumi Regency. The research aimed to develop strategic intervention models for the Legal Assistance and Consultation Institute (LBKH) at the Faculty of Law, University of Muhammadiyah Sukabumi, to address domestic violence. Utilizing a descriptive-analytic method, the research analyzed existing data through juridical foundations and employed both qualitative and quantitative approaches to investigate and conceptualize coordination between LBKH and local village governments. The findings indicated that strategic cooperation between LBKH and local authorities could significantly reduce domestic violence in Sukabumi Regency by integrating efforts across social institutions, law enforcement, and legal aid providers. This collaborative approach enabled effective prevention and legal assistance, enhancing the capacity of legal aid institutions to support victims of domestic violence.

A. Introduction

Domestic violence remains a prevalent issue in many households worldwide, including in Indonesia. Despite its significance, the discussion of domestic violence often remains taboo, contributing to its underreporting and the societal misconception that it is a private matter not to be aired publicly. In Sukabumi, domestic violence cases predominantly affect women,



making up the majority of abuses reported. According to data from the Women's Forum (*Forwa*), nearly 40 instances of domestic violence were reported in 2019 alone.

Legally, domestic violence encompasses any actions that inflict physical, psychological, sexual, and economic harm on the victims, who are predominantly women.¹ While not all victims of domestic violence are women, historically, women and children have been disproportionately affected, often left vulnerable and powerless against their aggressors. Domestic violence is frequently characterized as a "hidden crime" because both perpetrators and victims typically conceal the abuse, keeping it out of public scrutiny. Perpetrators often hold a higher status of power within the family, whether economically, physically, or socially, which can make it difficult for victims to seek help or report the violence to law enforcement.²

The United Nations defines violence against women as any act of gender-based violence that results or is likely to result in physical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering to women. This includes threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, occurring in either public or private life.³

In 2022, domestic violence (*KDRT*) emerged as the predominant issue among 27 reported cases of violence against women and children in Sukabumi, according to Wiwi Edhi Yulaviani, head of the Office of Population Control, Family Planning, Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (*DP2KBP3A*). Of these, 10 were cases of domestic violence, while the others included various incidents such as school bullying. The 32 victims comprised both children and adults—21 children (seven boys and 14 girls) and 11 adult women. Yulaviani pointed out that economic hardships, educational challenges, and communication issues between couples were significant triggers for these incidents. About half of these cases were processed through legal channels, with the remainder resolved outside the court system.⁴

Nationally, the situation reflects similar concerns. The 2021 data from Komnas Perempuan shows that domestic violence in Indonesia remains alarmingly high. The commission documented 2,025 cases of physical violence, 1,938 cases of sexual violence, 1,792 cases of psychological violence (termed as "paranormal violence"), and 680 cases of economic violence. This data highlights the urgent need for targeted interventions and improved protective measures to address the various forms of domestic abuse prevalent across the country.⁵

The Ministry of *PPPA* released the number of domestic violence cases in Indonesia until October 2022 as shown in the following figure.⁶

¹ Muklir Muklir, "Penanganan Korban KDRT Oleh Pusat Pelayanan Terpadu Pemberdayaan Perempuan Dan Anak (P2TP2A) Kabupaten Aceh Utara," *RESAM Jurnal Hukum* 7, no. 1 (2021): p. 10.

² Moerti Hadiati Soeroso, *Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga Dalam Perspektif Yuridis - Viktimologis*, 1st ed. (Jakarta: Sinar Grafika, 2011).

³ Dikdik M. Arief Mansur and Elisatris Gultom, *Urgensi Perlindungan Korban Kejahatan Antara Norma Dan Realita*, I (Jakarta: RajaGrafindo Persada, 2007).

⁴ Oksa Bachtar. Chamsah, "KDRT Mendominasi, Ada 27 Kasus Kekerasan Perempuan Dan Anak Di Kota Sukabumi," 2022, <https://www.sukabumiupdate.com/peristiwa/106816/kdrt-mendominasi-ada-27-kasus-kekerasan-perempuan-dan-anak-di-kota-sukabumi>. diakses pada 25 Maret 2023

⁵ Riza Priyadi, Surastini Fitriasi, "Pemidanaan Terhadap Pelaku Pengulangan Tindak Pidana Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga," *Jurnal Salam* 10, no. 3 (n.d.): 699–712, <https://journal.uinjkt.ac.id/index.php/salam/article/view/31810>.

⁶ -, "KemenPPPA Rilis Data Jumlah Kasus KDRT Di Indonesia Hingga Oktober 2022," *MetroTVNews.Com*, 2022, <https://www.metrotvnews.com/play/b2lCrdXL-kemenpppa-rilis-data-jumlah-kasus-kdrt-di-indonesia-hingga-oktober-2022>.



As reported by Indonesia's Ministry of PPPA in October 2022, there have been 18,261 cases of domestic violence across the country, with women constituting 79.5% of the victims, amounting to 16,745 cases. The data also highlights that men are significantly impacted as well, with 2,948 male victims reported. This underscores that domestic violence affects individuals regardless of gender, and emphasizes the need for interventions that consider all potential victims.

Despite increasing public familiarity with the term "domestic violence," the understanding of it remains predominantly associated with physical abuse. Many still view it as a private issue, not to be aired publicly or regarded as a criminal matter. This perception significantly undermines the effectiveness of legislative measures, such as Law Number 23 of 2004 on the Elimination of Domestic Violence, which establishes clear prohibitions and penalties for offenders.

According to Harruma (2021), domestic violence persists due to various factors, including economic stress, infidelity, and deeply entrenched socio-cultural norms that normalize violence within domestic settings. These socio-cultural factors present substantial challenges in effectively addressing and mitigating domestic violence. Strengthening the legal framework and enhancing educational efforts to shift societal attitudes towards domestic violence are crucial for reducing its prevalence and impact.⁷

Women facing domestic violence often grapple with multiple considerations when deciding whether to report their abusers to law enforcement and pursue legal action. Many hesitate because they fear the consequences for their abusers, such as imprisonment or divorce, yet they also recognize their inability to endure the ongoing psychological and physical abuse. This dilemma underscores the need for immediate and decisive action to prevent further harm.⁸

Internationally, many countries have implemented laws specifically designed to protect women from domestic violence, following frameworks like the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (CEDAW). Indonesia, for instance, ratified this commitment with the Law of the Republic of Indonesia No. 7 of 1984, aligning with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Furthermore, Indonesia reinforced its dedication to combating this issue through Presidential Decree No. 9 of 1998, which established the Commission on Anti-Violence Against Women. The country further strengthened its legal framework by enacting the Law on Domestic Violence No. 23 in 2004.⁹

⁷ Rochani Nani Rahayu, "Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga Di Indonesia Sebuah Narrative Literature Riview," *Intelektiva: Jurnal Ekonomi, Sosial & Humaniora* 4, no. 6 (2023), <https://jurnalintelektiva.com/index.php/jurnal/article/view/936/693>. p.40

⁸ Margie Gladies Sopacua, "Konsep Ideal Pencegahan Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga Terhadap Perempuan," *Jurnal Pembangunan Hukum Indonesia* 4, no. 2 (2022), <https://doi.org/10.14710/jphi.v4i2.213-226>.

⁹ Hanafi Arief, "Legal Protection Against Women Victims by The Indonesian Domestic Violence Act 23, 2004," *Sriwijaya Law Review* 1, no. 1 (2017): 110–21, <https://doi.org/10.28946/slrev.Vol1.Iss1.12.pp110-121>.

In Law No.23 of 2004, aspects of criminal acts and the scope of criminal acts include (Article 2 paragraph 1):¹⁰

- a. Husband, wife, and children (including adopted and stepchildren);
- b. Persons related to the person referred to in letter a by blood, marriage, milk, upbringing, and guardianship, who live in the household (in-laws, sons-in-law, brother-in-law, and besan); and/or,

People who work to help the household and live in the household (*PRT*).

As for the forms of domestic violence according to this Law, there are four types, namely:¹¹

1. Physical violence is an act that results in pain, falling ill or being seriously injured. In the context of personal relationships, forms of physical violence experienced by female victims include slapping, hitting, grabbing, stomping, kicking, strangling, throwing hard objects, torturing using sharp objects, such as knives, scissors, iron and arson. Meanwhile, in the context of public relations, physical violence against women can be in the form of confinement or rape of female domestic servants by employers or genital mutilation carried out in the name of certain cultures or beliefs.

In the Criminal Code, the term domestic violence is not known, as well as violence against women. There are several criminal provisions that specifically mention women as victims, but in addition to that a number of other physical violence are not criminally sanctioned, and the result is, even if there is victimization of women, no legal action can be taken against the perpetrators, for example: incest, marital rape, and sexual harassment.¹²

Violent crimes according to Arif Gosita, are acts that are against the law, committed intentionally by someone against others either for the benefit of themselves or others, and which cause mental, physical, and social suffering.¹³

2. Psychic violence is an act that results in fear, loss of confidence, loss of ability to act, a sense of helplessness, and/or severe psychological suffering in a person. Forms of psychological violence experienced by women include curses, continuous insults to downplay the victim's self-esteem, shouting and threats given to cause fear. In general, this psychological violence occurs in the context of personal relationships.
3. Sexual Violence is the coercion of sexual relations committed against people living in a household or forced sexual relations against one person within the scope of his household with another person for commercial purposes and / or certain purposes. Sexually nuanced violence includes various unwanted behaviors that have sexual meaning or often called "sexual harassment", as well as various forms of forced sex which are often referred to as rape.
4. Domestic neglect is a person who does not carry out his legal obligations to a person within the scope of the household in the form of negligence to give life, care or maintenance obligations to that person. Included in the category of household neglect is giving.

All forms of violence, whoever the perpetrators and victims are, can be grouped into major classifications, namely:¹⁴

¹⁰ Enny Puji Lestari, Eka Yuli Astuti, "Aspek-Aspek Tindak Pidana Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga," *SETARA: Jurnal Studi Gender Dan Anak* 1, no. 1 (2019), <https://e-journal.metrouniv.ac.id/index.php/jsnga/article/view/2187>.

¹¹ Government department Women's Empowerment of the Republic of Indonesia, Law Number 23 of 2004 concerning the Elimination of Domestic Violence, pp. 1-5.

¹² Harkristuti Harkrisnowo, *Hukum Pidana Dan Kekerasan Terhadap Perempuan, Dalam Memahami Bentuk-Bentuk Tindak Kekerasan Terhadap Perempuan Dan Alternatif Pemecahannya*, ed. Achie Sudiarti Luhulima (PT. Alumni Jakarta, 2000).

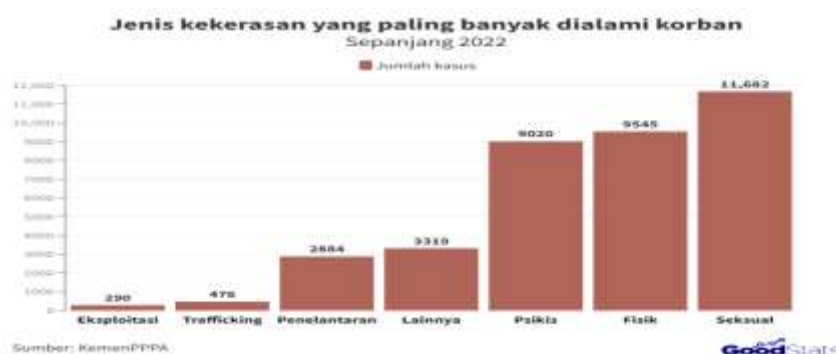
¹³ Learned Gosita, *Memahami Perempuan Dan Kekerasan Berdasarkan Viktimologi, Dalam Masalah Korban Kejahatan* (Jakarta: CV Akademika Pressindo, 1993).

¹⁴ E. Kristi Poerwandari, *Kekerasan Terhadap Perempuan: Suatu Tinjauan Psikologi Feministik, Dalam Memahami Bentuk-Bentuk Kekerasan Terhadap Perempuan Dan Alternatif Pemecahannya* (PT. Alumni Jakarta, 2000).

1. Violence in the domestic/intimate-personal sphere: various forms of violence in which the perpetrator and victim are related to other families/close relationships.
2. Violence in the public sphere: various forms of violence that occur outside of family relationships or other personal relationships.
3. Violence committed by/within the scope of the state: physical, sexual and/or psychological violence committed, persecuted

According to the division of the World Health Organization, the nature and essence of certain forms of violent behavior are manifested through (World Health Organization, 2002):

- a. physical violence,
- b. sexual violence,
- c. psychological violence, and
- d. negligent or negligent



From the picture above can be described as follows:¹⁵

Physical violence remains the second most common form of violence experienced by victims, with 9,545 cases reported in 2022. This was closely followed by 9,020 complaints of psychological violence, 3,319 cases categorized as "other," 2,884 reports of neglect, 476 cases of trafficking, and 290 cases of exploitation. A significant number of victims, totaling 23,361, reported experiencing one type of violence. Additionally, 5,175 victims reported suffering from two types of violence, while 1,093 victims encountered three types. Moreover, 55 victims reported experiencing more than three types of violence throughout the year.

The various forms of domestic violence significantly impact the psychological well-being of the victims. According to Maiuro (2001, p.ix), psychological violence can be delineated into four dimensions:¹⁶

1. Damage to the self-image or self-esteem of the partner.
2. Containment of passive-aggressive support and emotional nurturing.
3. Threatening behavior: explicit and implicit.
4. Restricting territory and personal freedom.

In the implementation of the Law on the Elimination of Domestic Violence, there are often obstacles, both from the community, law enforcement and even from the victim. Obstacles encountered from the victim are as follows:¹⁷

1. The victim is embarrassed and does not even want to report, because it is related to family.
2. The victim does not understand if the perpetrator's actions are a criminal act or violation of the law.
3. The victim is hesitant to contact or report to the police

¹⁵ Nada Naurah, "Menilik Statistik Kekerasan Terhadap Perempuan Pada Tahun 2022," *GoodStats*, 2023, <https://goodstats.id/article/menilik-statistik-kekerasan-terhadap-perempuan-pada-tahun-2022-0MS0Y>. diakses pada 28 Maret 2023

¹⁶ Geir Aas, "Policing Criminal Provisions on Repetitive and Severe Domestic Violence", *Nordisk politiforskning*, Årgang 6, nr. 2-2019, s. 93–110.

¹⁷ Bambang Waluyo, *VIKTIMOLOGI, Perlindungan Korban Dan Saksi*, 6th ed. (Jakarta: Sinar Grafika, 2018).

4. Grace period of violence by reporting to the old police, that *visum et repertum* cannot be conducted.
5. The victim is afraid of retaliation with the perpetrator.
6. The victim is afraid if the condition of his household suffers more with the abstinence or conviction of the perpetrator.

Transition-related factors affecting domestic violence can be classified into two groups: ¹⁸

1. Factors affecting exposure to violence in the family.
2. Factors that prevent the victim from leaving the perpetrator.

In general, the impact of violence on victims can be categorized into: ¹⁹

1) Direct impact

The direct impact of violence on victims relates to the physical and financial impacts, which occur both at the time of violence and when the violence has ended, as well as the psychological impact and social costs.

2) Indirect Impact

The indirect impact on victims often relates to how social, community, and judicial institutions respond to crimes. According to a criminologist, several factors contribute to domestic violence, particularly sexual violence: a. Cultural shifts that increasingly neglect modest dress codes, potentially provoking indecent and malicious behavior; b. More permissive interactions between men and women, blurring distinctions between acceptable and unacceptable behavior according to moral standards, leading to incidents of coercive sexual conduct; c. A diminishing regard for and adherence to religious norms, eroding moral restraints and discouraging ethical interactions; d. Weak social controls where deviations from laws and religious norms are inadequately monitored by community members. These insights point to a need for reinforcing cultural, moral, and legal standards across society to help prevent such crimes.

Domestic violence remains a challenging issue, partly because many perpetrators either do not recognize their actions as criminal or knowingly commit these acts but dismiss them as normal based on prevailing social norms. Thus, they regard domestic violence as merely personal problems rather than serious offenses. ²⁰ Consequently, addressing domestic violence necessitates the active involvement of various entities including law enforcement, social institutions, and particularly legal aid organizations that work closely with communities. These organizations play a crucial role not only in providing legal support but also in preventing domestic violence. The presence and efforts of legal aid institutions are vital, especially given the scarcity of such organizations in many regions and the general lack of awareness and education about domestic violence. Often, the focus is disproportionately on legal support for cases that have already entered the judicial process, rather than on preventative measures and broader educational initiatives. It is essential that more resources and attention are dedicated to both preventing domestic violence and supporting the victims through legal process.

Legal aid is a fundamental right for the poor, provided free of charge (*pro bono publico*) as a manifestation of equal rights before the law. This principle aligns with Article 34 of the 1945 Constitution, which states that the state is responsible for the welfare of the poor. Moreover, the principles of equality before the law and the right to legal counsel are human rights that are essential for lifting the Indonesian populace out of poverty, particularly within

¹⁸ Nikolić-Ristanović, V. Criminal acts of domestic violence in the social context and legal systems of Serbia and Montenegro, Temida, vol. 6, no. 2. (2003). p. 6.

¹⁹ Fauzan Nur. Adima, "Tindak Pidana Kekerasan Psikis Dalam Rumah Tangga Anak Kepada Orang Tua, Dan Perbedaan Dengan Penghinaan Menurut KUHP (Studi Putusan Pengadilan Tinggi Jakarta Nomor: 168/PID/2020/PT. DKI)," *Al-Qisthu: Jurnal Kajian Ilmu-Ilmu Hukum* 18, no. 1 (2020).

²⁰ Syarifuddin, Syarifuddin. "Penanganan dan Pencegahan Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga (KDRT) Terhadap Perempuan dan Anak." *Jurnal Hukum Al-Hikmah: Media Komunikasi dan Informasi Hukum dan Masyarakat* 2, no. 4 (2021): p. 623-634.

the legal domain. Article 34 paragraph (1) of the Constitution explicitly mentions that the poor and abandoned children are under the state's care, implying a broader obligation of the state to ensure the economic, social, political, cultural, and legal rights of the impoverished, including access to legal aid.

Article 28D of the Constitution asserts that every individual is entitled to recognition, guarantees of protection, and fair legal treatment without discrimination. Complementing this, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which Indonesia ratified through Law Number 12 of 2005, reinforces the right to equal legal treatment under Article 14. Article 3 of the Legal Aid Law outlines the objectives of legal aid implementation, which include ensuring and fulfilling the rights of Legal Aid Recipients to access justice, upholding the constitutional rights of all citizens as per the equality principle, guaranteeing uniform implementation of legal aid across Indonesia, and realizing effective, efficient, and accountable justice systems. Handayani (2015, p. 15) describes legal aid as "every legal aid has an important role in access to justice that it would not only foster new hope in the judicial world but also evidence of equal justice for anyone in legal standing".²¹

The provision of legal aid for communities facing domestic violence issues by social institutions, law enforcement, and legal aid organizations is currently suboptimal. This is particularly true in the Sukabumi area, where many residents are unaware of or do not fully understand the Domestic Violence Law. Consequently, victims often encounter significant barriers when seeking justice.

In practice, the implementation of legal aid in Sukabumi and other regions frequently faces challenges. Legal aid institutions often fall short in effectively assisting and supporting victims of domestic violence. This leaves many, especially those unfamiliar with legal processes, feeling bewildered and unsure of how to proceed. Such shortcomings indicate a pressing need for these institutions to enhance their role in addressing domestic violence cases. Furthermore, accessing legal aid remains problematic. Local communities, particularly those dealing with domestic violence, find it difficult to access the necessary legal support. The inefficiency of law enforcement agencies in facilitating access to legal aid services further exacerbates the issue. Additionally, a lack of awareness among the communities about their legal rights and the existing aid mechanisms hinders their ability to seek appropriate help. These barriers must be addressed to ensure that victims of domestic violence receive the justice and legal protection they rightfully deserve.

The Legal Assistance and Consultation Institute (*LBKH*) at the Faculty of Law, University of Muhammadiyah Sukabumi, established in 2015, has become a pivotal entity in addressing domestic violence in the Sukabumi area. This institute, a vital component of the university's educational mission, serves the community by promoting the principles of equality before the law and ensuring access to justice. The *LBKH* has notably received reports of domestic violence from local village governments, highlighting a persistent lack of awareness among the populace that domestic violence constitutes a criminal offense.

The role of *LBKH* extends beyond mere legal support; it is instrumental in educating the community and reinforcing the state's commitment to uphold individual rights and equal treatment under the law. Despite its efforts, challenges remain in fully optimizing the delivery of legal assistance, particularly in cases of domestic violence, which suggests a need for an improved strategic approach.

This research aims to develop a strategic framework detailing how the *LBKH* can more effectively combat domestic violence in Sukabumi. The research will provide a descriptive analysis of *LBKH*'s current role and explore potential strategies to enhance its impact. The goal is to identify core issues that hinder effective legal aid delivery and propose a structured strategy

²¹ Handayani, Tri Astuti. "Bantuan hukum bagi masyarakat tidak mampu dalam perspektif teori keadilan bermartabat." *Refleksi Hukum: Jurnal Ilmu Hukum* 9, no. 1 (2015): 15-24.

for handling domestic violence cases, focusing on prevention and robust community engagement.

This research employed an analytical descriptive methodology, focusing on interpreting and analyzing data from various relevant sources based on juridical foundations. Using an empirical juridical method, the research was designed to analyze laws and regulations closely associated with the issue of domestic violence in the Sukabumi region.

Data collection was conducted through literature studies and field studies. The literature research involved collecting conceptions, opinions, and findings related to laws, regulations, and national policies that impact the development of disadvantaged areas, as well as expert legal opinions. Field studies involved gathering primary data over a two-month period through interviews and questionnaires distributed within the jurisdiction of Sukabumi Regency. This approach allows for a comprehensive comparison of perspectives from various institutions, including police, prosecutors, village governments, and P2TP2A Sukabumi, on their roles in addressing domestic violence.²²

The research sets itself apart from previous studies, such as those by Indah Parinda on law enforcement against domestic violence victims in Indonesia, and by Cokorda Istri Dharmasatyari, I Nyoman Gede Sugiarta, Ni Made Sukaryati Karma on legal protection for women victims of domestic violence. These studies primarily focused on the actions of law enforcement and legal aid institutions post-incident. In contrast, this research aims to explore strategic efforts by legal aid institutions, particularly *LBKH* FH UMMI, in not only providing legal assistance but also in preventing domestic violence.

The innovation of this research lies in its strategic approach to formulating actionable and replicable strategies for legal aid institutions. It aims to develop a strategic concept that can enhance the effectiveness of legal aid, focusing on prevention and proactive measures. This research established a model that can be adopted by other legal aid institutions to improve their efficiency and impact in preventing domestic violence, ultimately leading to broader societal benefits.

B. Discussion

1. Obstacles and Obstacles in the Provision of Legal Aid by social institutions, law enforcement agencies, and legal aid institutions for people who experience domestic violence cases.

Local communities, particularly in rural areas, face significant challenges in understanding and addressing domestic violence from a legal perspective, primarily due to low levels of education which lead to a lack of awareness about legal protections for victims. As a result, victims often remain silent, viewing domestic issues as private matters not to be disclosed outside the family. This silence frequently results in many cases of domestic violence going unresolved, only coming to light when they escalate severely enough to necessitate legal intervention, while others simply fade over time, normalized by the community. Research conducted through interviews with village governments in the Sukabumi Region, specifically in Padaasih Village—known for frequent domestic violence incidents—reveals that economic and educational shortcomings significantly impact residents' understanding of domestic violence. These interviews indicated that few victims seek legal recourse, and the village often only learns of such cases through hearsay. Additionally, a survey distributing questionnaires to 50 individuals across two villages showed that about 85% of respondents were unaware of the laws governing domestic violence and were confused about the steps to take when such violence occurs, viewing it as a family disgrace that should not be publicized.²³

²² Johnny Ibrahim. 2008. *Teori dan Metodologi Penelitian Hukum Normatif*. Malang: Bayumedia Publishing, p. 285

²³ Result interview with Padaasih Village, Sukabumi Regency.

Based on these findings, it is evident that the role of social institutions, law enforcement agencies, and particularly legal aid organizations in rural regions must extend beyond merely providing assistance during legal processes. There is a crucial need for these entities to also engage in preventive measures to reduce the occurrence of domestic violence within the community. Additionally, community should enhance their understanding of domestic violence and to guide them on the necessary actions and steps to take should such incidents occur.

Law enforcement officials play a critical role in this context. They possess the authority to enforce the law within their respective jurisdictions, turning abstract legal provisions into tangible realities that impact people's lives. The effectiveness of both good and bad laws largely depends on the actions of these officials. Therefore, ensuring that law enforcement personnel are well-trained and informed about domestic violence and its implications is vital for the proper enforcement of the law and the protection of victims.²⁴

Both the Police, the Prosecutor's Office, and the District Court play pivotal roles as law enforcement officers in the judicial process, striving to uphold justice for those who violate the law. These agencies, tasked with representing the state, work alongside other legal representatives such as advocates, who serve as free and independent enforcers of the law. According to Law Number 18 of 2013 concerning Advocates, these professionals are mandated to represent community interests and assist individuals in accessing their right to legal aid.

In addressing domestic violence in Indonesia, social institutions hold a critical position, particularly in regions like Sukabumi Regency. These institutions, including the Center for Integrated Services for Women and Children (*P2PT2A*), act as extensions of the government to provide comprehensive and exemplary services to the community. This framework has facilitated the growth of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that actively participate in resolving domestic violence cases. The roles of such social institutions are multifaceted: they support victims in claiming their rightful compensation and restitution, encourage and motivate victims to regain their confidence and reintegrate into society, and prepare them to assist and report domestic violence incidents involving others. Ultimately, the primary objective of these social institutions is to empower victims of domestic violence, helping them to become more resilient both physically and psychologically, enhancing their social skills, and ensuring they receive the compensation they deserve for their suffering..

Authorities such as the Center for Integrated Services for Women and Children Development (*P2PT2A*) in Sukabumi Regency are pivotal in advocating for and protecting the rights of domestic violence victims. Social institutions in Indonesia, empowered by laws such as Article 10 letter a of the Domestic Violence Act (*PDKRT* Law Number 23 of 2004), are tasked with addressing violence within households. These organizations, including legal aid institutions, are recognized for their commitment to tackling such issues through various methods, including persuasive approaches and moral support.

However, the practical application of legal aid, especially for the economically disadvantaged who need assistance in accessing their legal rights, faces several challenges. These include limited access to legal aid for local communities, particularly in domestic violence cases. The effectiveness of social institutions, law enforcement agencies, and legal aid institutions in providing legal protection and access to legal aid is still far from optimal. There are systemic issues in handling these cases, notably in preventive measures which have not been fully maximized. Additionally, a general lack of understanding among community members about available legal assistance exacerbates these challenges. The organized efforts by government-represented social institutions and law enforcement to improve access to legal aid in domestic violence cases need significant enhancement to effectively support and protect victims.

²⁴ Law Number 48 of 2009 concerning Judicial Power

2. LBKH FH Universitas Muhammadiyah Sukabumi Efforts in Overcoming Domestic Violence Cases

LBKH FH Universitas Muhammadiyah Sukabumi typically learns about domestic violence cases through reports from local village government officials, reflecting a strong partnership in community service activities. The frequent occurrences of domestic violence in the Sukabumi Regency area have led researchers to select Padaasih Village in the Cisaat District as a reference for applying strategic efforts to manage these cases.

In collaboration with the village government, researchers have developed and communicated a strategy for handling domestic violence cases. This strategy involves the establishment of legal aid service posts at both the village and RW (neighborhood association) levels, forming a critical network for addressing these issues. The approach is structured that at the village level, one or two appointed individuals receive complaints that escalate from the RW level. Each RW appoints a representative along with an RT (smallest neighborhood unit) representative who handles initial complaints from residents. Complaints are then channeled from RT to RW and subsequently to the village level, where they are directly relayed to LBKH FH Universitas Muhammadiyah Sukabumi.

The teams at the village and RW levels were trained on the essential steps to take when such cases arise, focusing particularly on immediate response measures for victims. This structure is designed to minimize domestic violence issues within the community by ensuring prompt and effective response. Moreover, LBKH FH Universitas Muhammadiyah Sukabumi and the village government have committed to regular legal education and counseling sessions for residents, aimed at increasing awareness and understanding of legal protections against domestic violence. This ongoing educational effort is crucial for empowering residents and enabling them to respond effectively to domestic violence incidents.

The figure below presents the process flow outlined by the researchers delineates a clear and structured mechanism for handling domestic violence cases through the collaboration between LBKH FH Universitas Muhammadiyah Sukabumi and the village government²⁵

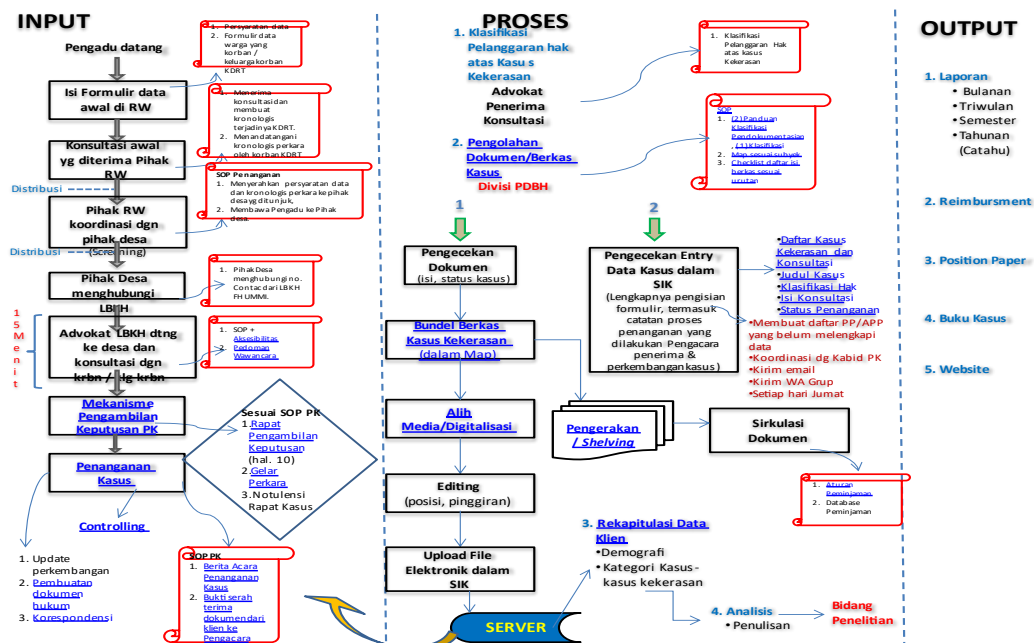


Figure 1: The concept of mechanism flow in handling violence cases.

²⁵ Flow the process of handling cases of violence by LBKH FH Universitas Muhammadiyah Sukabumi in collaboration with partners.

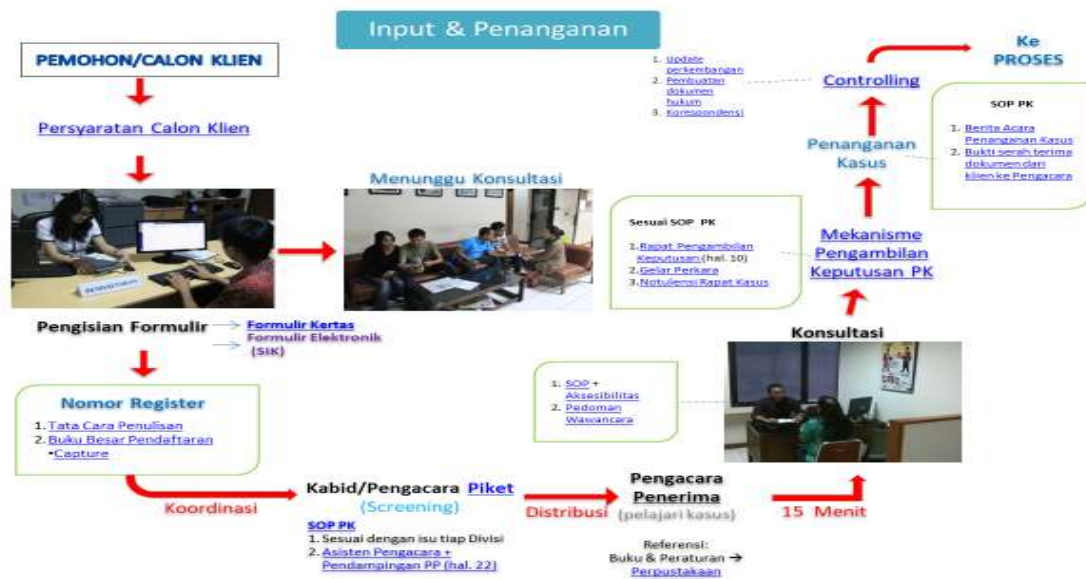


Figure 2: Input on the mechanism for handling cases in the internal *LBKH* FH Universitas Muhammadiyah Sukabumi.

The process flow diagrams illustrate a collaborative mechanism designed for handling domestic violence cases, as developed by the Padaasih Village Government and *LBKH* FH Universitas Muhammadiyah Sukabumi in the Cisaat District of Sukabumi Regency. This system is aimed at facilitating easy access to legal aid and ensuring effective management of domestic violence incidents within the community. By establishing structured points for receiving complaints at the RT, RW, and village levels, the framework ensures that all incidents are reported and handled promptly. This model is intended not just for Padaasih Village but as a scalable concept that could potentially be applied in other village areas.

In a related development, Police investigator Karya Gunawan from the Sukabumi Resort highlighted that many domestic violence cases are settled internally within families, often due to social stigma, and thus do not reach the formal legal reporting stage. He noted that educational shortcomings regarding domestic violence and legal recourse, coupled with economic instability, are significant barriers that prevent victims from seeking help. Mr. Gunawan expressed support for the initiatives proposed by *LBKH* FH Universitas Muhammadiyah Sukabumi, emphasizing the necessity of community education to enhance understanding of domestic violence laws. He also assured readiness on the part of the police to support and respond to cases requiring legal intervention and to accept reports from victims wishing to pursue legal action, marking a critical move towards proactive law enforcement engagement in handling domestic violence in the region.²⁶

During an interview with Mr. Rendy, S.H., from the District Attorney's Office of Sukabumi, it was revealed that the number of domestic violence cases reaching court proceedings is minimal, as most are resolved at the police level or through restorative justice processes, often resulting in familial resolutions that close the cases. Mr. Rendy emphasized the need for community education on the rules surrounding domestic violence and the appropriate responses when such incidents occur. He also supported the initiatives proposed by *LBKH* FH Universitas Muhammadiyah Sukabumi, affirming the Prosecutor's Office's readiness to assist in domestic violence cases that require legal intervention.

This collaborative approach between *LBKH* FH Universitas Muhammadiyah Sukabumi, the Sukabumi Resort Police, and the Sukabumi State Prosecutor's Office aims to foster effective

²⁶ Result interview with Karya Gunawan, S.H. from Investigator Resort Sukabumi.

prevention and handling of domestic violence cases within the community.²⁷ By working together, these institutions hope to implement a system that not only addresses incidents as they occur but also works proactively to educate the community, thereby preventing future cases. The success of this pilot program in Padaasih Village could lead to its broader application across other villages in the Sukabumi Regency, potentially setting a model for other regions to follow in tackling domestic violence.

C. Conclusion

The discussion highlights the multifaceted role of the Legal Assistance and Consultation Institute (*LBKH*) of the Faculty of Law at Universitas Muhammadiyah Sukabumi in addressing domestic violence in Sukabumi. The *LBKH*'s involvement is crucial and includes several key activities: (1) Collaborating with government bodies, law enforcement, and social institutions to emphasize preventive measures over reactive ones, aiming to reduce domestic violence incidents before they occur; (2) Conducting regular outreach and educational sessions to increase legal awareness among the community, particularly regarding domestic violence laws; (3) Implementing strategic concepts within village environments by establishing legal aid complaint posts at the RW level, ensuring community members have immediate access to legal support in domestic violence situations; (4) Integrating paralegals into the community to further strengthen preventive measures and support victims; (5) Enhancing community vigilance at the grassroots level, particularly within neighborhood units, to act effectively as first responders in incidents of domestic violence, thereby ensuring timely intervention and support. These comprehensive efforts by *LBKH* FH UMMI demonstrate a proactive and community-centered approach to combatting domestic violence in Sukabumi.

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