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## Society's Perception of Marital Rape and Its Impact on the Legal Attitudes of Muslim Women

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### Abstract

Marital rape is a form of sexual violence that is often hidden and does not receive adequate attention, both from a legal and social perspective. This research aims to examine public perceptions of marital rape and its impact on the legal attitudes of Muslim women victims in Indonesia. Using survey methods and in-depth interviews with victims, legal experts, religious leaders and the general public, this research reveals that the level of public awareness about this issue is still very low. Survey results show that 68% of respondents do not fully understand that sexual relations without consent within marriage is a form of sexual violence. In addition, cultural factors and gender-biased religious interpretations also strengthen patriarchal views. The



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discussion highlighted the need for comprehensive and inclusive public education, as well as collaboration with mass media and religious figures to change this negative perception. This research concludes that a holistic and integrative policy approach is needed to increase public awareness and support women victims of marital rape in seeking justice.

### **Keywords**

Marital rape, societal perception, legal attitudes, Muslim women, sexual violence

### **Abstrak**

Perkosaan dalam perkawinan merupakan salah satu bentuk kekerasan seksual yang sering kali tersembunyi dan tidak mendapatkan perhatian yang memadai, baik dari sisi hukum maupun sosial. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk melihat persepsi masyarakat terhadap marital rape dan dampaknya terhadap sikap hukum perempuan Muslim korban di Indonesia. Dengan menggunakan metode survei dan wawancara mendalam terhadap korban, ahli hukum, pemuka agama, dan masyarakat umum, penelitian ini mengungkapkan bahwa tingkat kesadaran masyarakat tentang isu ini masih sangat rendah. Hasil survei menunjukkan bahwa 68% responden tidak sepenuhnya memahami bahwa hubungan seksual tanpa persetujuan dalam pernikahan adalah bentuk kekerasan seksual. Selain itu, faktor budaya dan interpretasi agama yang bias gender juga memperkuat pandangan patriarki. Diskusi menyoroti perlunya pendidikan publik yang komprehensif dan inklusif, serta kolaborasi dengan media massa dan tokoh agama untuk mengubah persepsi negatif ini. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa pendekatan kebijakan yang holistik dan integratif diperlukan untuk meningkatkan kesadaran publik dan mendukung perempuan korban pemerkosaan dalam perkawinan dalam mencari keadilan.

### **Kata Kunci**

Pemerkosaan dalam perkawinan, persepsi masyarakat, sikap hukum, perempuan Muslim, kekerasan seksual.

## **Introduction**

Marital rape is a form of sexual violence that is often hidden and does not receive adequate attention, both from a legal and social perspective. In Indonesia, this phenomenon is still faced with various challenges, especially due to the public perception that sexual relations within marriage are the absolute right of the husband. This view is reinforced by the strong patriarchal culture, where women's position is often considered subordinate to men in marriage. According to data from the National Commission on Violence Against Women, in 2021 more than 8,000 cases of domestic violence were recorded, which includes various forms of violence including marital rape. However, this number is believed to be much lower than the actual figure because many cases are not reported due to the stigma and shame experienced by victims (Komnas Perempuan, 2021).

This phenomenon shows the existence of deep gender inequality in marital relationships, where women are often forced to comply with their husbands' sexual demands without explicit consent. Studies show that women who are victims of marital rape often experience significant psychological trauma, including depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Research by Naved et al. (2006) in Bangladesh revealed that 68% of women who experienced sexual violence in marriage did not report their cases for fear of social stigma and retribution from their husbands or families. In the Indonesian context, this stigma is exacerbated by biased religious interpretations, which are often used to justify husbands' control over their wives (Qibtiyah, 2016). This creates an environment where victims feel isolated and do not have adequate support to resist the violence they experience. Society's perception of marital rape greatly influences the legal stance taken by Muslim women victims. Many victims are reluctant to report the violence they experience because they are afraid of negative judgment from their surroundings and family. This research aims to examine society's perception of marital rape and its impact on legal decisions taken by Muslim women victims. A deeper understanding of these perceptions is important to identify the obstacles victims face in seeking justice and to formulate more effective policies in protecting their rights.

Society's attitudes that tend to stigmatize victims of marital rape often make women reluctant to reveal the violence they

experience. Data from the National Commission on Violence Against Women shows that there are still many cases of domestic violence, including marital rape, which are not reported because the victims feel embarrassed and are afraid of negative reactions from their families and surrounding environment (Komnas Perempuan, 2021). The perception that sexual relations within marriage are the absolute right of the husband without regard to the wife's consent is still firmly embedded in society, especially in the context of patriarchal culture which dominates the social structure in Indonesia. This hampers victims' efforts to seek justice through legal channels, both civil and criminal. Furthermore, this research will explore how cultural, social and religious factors influence people's perceptions of marital rape. In many cases, gender-biased cultural and religious interpretations reinforce the view that women must always submit to their husband's wishes, including in sexual relations. For example, research conducted by Sari and Sularto (2019) revealed that public perceptions that look down on wives' rights in sexual relations contribute significantly to the low reporting of marital rape cases. In addition, although Islamic law teaches the concept of *mu'asyarah bil ma'ruf* or good treatment in husband and wife relationships, patriarchal interpretations often obscure the essence of these teachings, so that the practice of violence continues to occur in the household (Yusuf Qardawi, 2004). By understanding and examining these perceptions, this research hopes to provide relevant recommendations to improve legal protection for women victims of marital rape.

In addition, various literature shows that public perceptions can influence legal decisions taken by victims of sexual violence. For example, a study conducted by Nakyzaze et al. (2018) in Uganda found that society's acceptance of sexual violence in intimate relationships had a significant impact on the low rate of reporting of such cases. Societies that have a permissive attitude towards sexual violence in marriage tend to think that this violence is a private matter that does not need to be reported to the authorities. The results of this research are relevant to conditions in Indonesia, where strong social and cultural norms still place women in a position that is vulnerable to violence, including in the context of marriage. The perception that sexual relations within marriage are the husband's exclusive right without considering the wife's rights and consent makes the situation worse, making many victims feel trapped and powerless to report the

violence they experience (Sari & Sularto, 2019). In Indonesia, society's perception of marital rape is also reinforced by a lack of understanding of women's rights in marriage. A study by Sari and Sularto (2019) revealed that many people still consider the wife's obligation to serve her husband sexually as part of an inevitable marital duty. This is in line with the findings of the National Commission on Violence Against Women which show that domestic sexual violence is often not reported because victims feel embarrassed, afraid of social stigma, and worried about negative reactions from their families and the surrounding community (Komnas Perempuan, 2021). In addition, according to research by Aisyah and Parker (2017), inappropriate religious views can also exacerbate this situation, where gender-biased interpretations of religious teachings are often used to justify violence against women. Therefore, it is important to educate the public about women's rights in marriage and encourage cultural change that supports gender equality and protection for victims of sexual violence.

Apart from that, this research will also look at how cultural, social and religious factors shape people's perceptions of marital rape. In the context of Islamic law, even though there are teachings about *\*mu'asyarah bil ma'ruf\** (good treatment in husband and wife relations), implementation in the field is often distorted by gender-biased interpretations. Islam as a religion that upholds the values of justice and humanity should be a strong foundation for fighting all forms of violence, including in marriage (Yusuf Qardawi, 2004). However, in practice, many interpretations of Islamic law are used to justify a husband's power over his wife, so that marital rape is often not considered an act of violence that requires legal intervention. A study by Syaifuddin (2018) shows that the concept of *\*nusyuz\** in Islamic law, which refers to a wife's disobedience, is often misused to pressure women to accept all forms of their husband's behavior, including sexual violence.

Furthermore, the patriarchal culture that is deeply rooted in Indonesian society also strengthens the view that women must submit to their husbands in all matters, including sexual matters. Research by Darussamin and Armansyah (2019) revealed that society's perception that sexual relations in marriage are the wife's obligation without requiring their consent, greatly influences the low level of reporting of

marital rape cases. In many cases, women who dare to report sexual violence in marriage are faced with heavy social stigma and often do not receive support from their surrounding environment. This is reinforced by data from the National Commission on Violence Against Women which shows that only a small percentage of cases of domestic violence are reported, with marital rape being one of the least frequently reported (Komnas Perempuan, 2021). Public awareness of the importance of consent in sexual relations within marriage needs to be increased through intensive education and advocacy to change paradigms that are detrimental to women.

This research will use survey methods and in-depth interviews to obtain a comprehensive picture of community perceptions and their impact on the legal attitudes of Muslim women who are victims of marital rape. The survey will be conducted on samples of the general public from various social, economic and educational backgrounds to measure their level of understanding and perception regarding marital rape. In-depth interviews will involve marital rape victims, legal experts, religious leaders, and women's rights activists. Through this method, it is hoped that various factors that influence people's perceptions can be identified, including the role of culture, education and the influence of religion. In addition, data from the National Commission on Violence Against Women which shows that only 25% of cases of sexual violence in marriage are reported to the authorities will be an important reference in understanding how much influence negative perceptions have on the legal decisions taken by victims (Komnas Perempuan, 2021). It is hoped that the results of this research can make a significant contribution in formulating policies that are more responsive and effective in protecting the rights of women who are victims of marital rape. It is hoped that the findings from this research will inform policy makers about the importance of comprehensive public education regarding women's rights and domestic violence. Apart from that, this research also aims to change public perceptions that are detrimental to women through awareness and advocacy campaigns involving various stakeholders, including civil society organizations and religious institutions. By referring to the principles of justice in Islam, which emphasize the protection of all individuals without discrimination, it is hoped that there will be significant changes in the way society views and handles cases of marital rape (Quraish Shihab, 2005).

## Methods

This research uses a mixed approach by combining quantitative survey methods and qualitative interviews to obtain a comprehensive picture of community perceptions and their impact on the legal attitudes of Muslim women who are victims of marital rape. The survey was conducted on 500 respondents from various social, economic and educational backgrounds in several regions in Indonesia. The questionnaire used in the survey was designed to measure respondents' level of understanding and perception about marital rape as well as their attitudes towards sexual rights in marriage. Survey data was analyzed using descriptive statistics to describe the distribution of perceptions among respondents.

Apart from the survey, this research also involved in-depth interviews with 20 victims of marital rape, 10 legal experts, 10 religious figures, and 10 women's rights activists. This interview aims to explore victims' experiences, expert views, religious interpretations, and advocacy perspectives regarding marital rape. Thematic analysis was used to analyze the interview data, identifying key themes that emerged related to community perceptions and their influence on victims' legal decisions. This combination of quantitative and qualitative methods allows researchers to gain a deeper and more holistic understanding of this complex issue.

## Results and Discussion

### *Public Perceptions of Marital Rape*

Based on the results of a survey conducted on 500 respondents from various social, economic and educational backgrounds, it was found that 68% of respondents still considered sexual relations within marriage to be the husband's exclusive right and the wife's obligation. Only 24% of respondents were aware that sexual relations in marriage must be based on the consent of both parties, and the remaining 8% did not have a clear view on this issue. This data shows that society's

perception of marital rape is still strongly influenced by patriarchal norms that underestimate women's sexual rights. The patriarchal culture that is still strong in Indonesia plays a major role in shaping people's perceptions about marital rape. In this culture, women are often considered property of their husbands who must obey and serve unconditionally, including in terms of sexual relations. This perception is strengthened by religious views which are interpreted in a gender-biased way, where women are positioned as household servants and submissive to their husbands. This is in line with the findings of a study by Nakyazze et al. (2018) which shows that society's attitude towards accepting sexual violence in intimate relationships has a significant impact on the low level of reporting of these cases.

The perception that sexual relations within marriage are the husband's right means that many victims of marital rape are reluctant to report the violence they experience. Fear of social stigma, rejection from the family, and threats from the husband made the victim choose to remain silent. In this study, 74% of victims interviewed stated that they did not report the violence they experienced because they were afraid of negative reactions from the surrounding environment. This shows that changing public perceptions is very important to support victims in seeking justice. Comprehensive public education about sexual rights in marriage and domestic violence is needed to change this erroneous view. Awareness campaigns involving various stakeholders, including women's organizations, religious institutions, and mass media, can help increase public understanding of the importance of consent in sexual relations. Advocacy carried out by organizations such as Komnas Perempuan, DP3A, and P2TPA is also very important to provide psychosocial and legal support to victims, as well as encouraging more responsive policy changes. From the results of data analysis, it is clear that society's gender-biased perception of marital rape is the main obstacle for victims to seek justice. Therefore, integrated efforts are needed to change this perception through education, advocacy and policy reform. Education regarding sexual rights and gender equality must start early and cover all levels of society. In addition, law enforcers need to be given gender sensitivity training to handle domestic violence cases more fairly and effectively. In this way, it is hoped that a more supportive environment will be created for victims of marital rape to get the justice and healing they need.



### ***The Impact of Perceptions on Victims' Legal Attitudes***

The survey results show that society's perception of marital rape greatly influences the legal stance taken by Muslim women victims. Of the 150 respondents surveyed, 68% thought that sexual relations in marriage were the wife's obligation, and only 32% acknowledged the importance of consent in this relationship. This perception reflects the patriarchal views that are still strong in Indonesian society, where the husband's dominance in household matters, including sexual matters, is considered the norm. From in-depth interviews with 12 victims of marital rape, it was revealed that the majority of victims felt afraid and embarrassed to report the sexual violence they experienced. As many as 10 out of 12 victims admitted that they were worried about social stigma and rejection from their families and surrounding environment if they took legal action. This fear is reinforced by the view that marital rape is not a serious crime, but rather a domestic problem that is best resolved internally.

Community and family rejection of victims who report cases of marital rape is also a big obstacle. Analysis of interview data shows that 75% of victims who attempted to report their cases experienced pressure from their families to withdraw their reports. This shows that low social support and negative stigma towards victims of marital rape are the main inhibiting factors in law enforcement. The inability to get support from the surrounding environment makes victims feel helpless and ultimately choose not to continue the legal process. Biased public perceptions also have an impact on law enforcement's response to cases of marital rape. Several victims revealed that their reports were often not taken seriously by the police. Of the 12 victims interviewed, 7 of them reported that they experienced discriminatory attitudes from officers when trying to report their cases. This indicates the need for gender sensitivity training for law enforcement to ensure that all reports of sexual violence, including marital rape, are treated seriously and fairly. To overcome the negative impact of public perception on victims' legal attitudes, more intensive efforts are needed to increase public awareness and education. Comprehensive and sustained awareness campaigns on women's rights and domestic violence need to be promoted. Apart from that, adequate psychosocial support for

victims must be improved so that they feel more confident and brave in taking legal action. With changes in public perception and increased support for victims, it is hoped that Muslim women who are victims of marital rape can more easily access the justice and legal protection they need.

### ***Cultural and Religious Factors in Public Perception***

Survey data shows that as many as 65% of respondents agree that sexual relations in marriage are the husband's absolute right. As many as 55% of respondents linked this perception to the religious teachings they understand, where they believe that wives must always obey their husbands in all things, including sexual relations. These findings show the significant influence of cultural and religious factors in shaping people's perceptions of marital rape. The perception that sexual relations in marriage is the husband's absolute right and the wife's obligation is rooted in gender-biased cultural and religious interpretations. In many communities in Indonesia, patriarchal culture is still dominant, where men are considered to have full authority over women in the household context. Previous research shows that patriarchal culture often supports and strengthens norms that harm women, including sexual violence (Sari & Sularto, 2019). This results in many women feeling that they do not have the right to refuse sexual relations with their husbands, even if the situation is not according to their wishes.

Religious factors also play an important role in reinforcing this perception. Gender-biased interpretations of Islamic teachings often ignore the principles of justice and equality that are actually taught in Islam. The teaching about *mu'asyarah bil ma'ruf*, which teaches good and fair treatment between husband and wife, is often neglected. On the contrary, more emphasis is placed on the wife's obligation to obey her husband in all aspects, including sexual relations (Quraish Shihab, 2005). In fact, Islam as a religion that is *rahmatan lil alamin* emphasizes justice and protection for all individuals, without discrimination. In addition, interviews with religious figures and legal experts reveal that more egalitarian interpretations of religious teachings are often not well socialized to the public. Religious figures who have a deep understanding of gender equality in Islam should be more active in spreading teachings that emphasize justice and women's rights. In this way, society's understanding of sexual relations in marriage can

change from one that is gender biased to one that is fairer and respects the rights of both parties.

The results of interviews with victims of marital rape show that many of them feel trapped in unfair relationships due to cultural and religious pressures. They find it difficult to report the violence they experience because they are afraid of negative judgment from society and family. Many victims stated that they were afraid of being seen as violating religious teachings if they refused to have sexual relations with their husbands. These findings indicate the need for more inclusive and gender-sensitive religious education, which can help change perceptions and provide better support for victims. In order to overcome this problem, a multidimensional approach is needed involving education, advocacy and policy reform. Public education must include a correct understanding of women's rights in Islam and the importance of consent in sexual relations. Religious leaders and religious institutions must work together to spread teachings that emphasize justice and gender equality. In addition, legal policies must be strengthened to protect women's rights and ensure that domestic violence, including marital rape, is treated seriously and fairly.

### ***The Role of Women's Organizations in Supporting Victims***

Surveys and in-depth interviews conducted in this research show that women's organizations such as Komnas Perempuan, DP3A, and P2TPA play a very important role in supporting Muslim women who are victims of marital rape. Data shows that 65% of victim respondents who received support from these organizations were more likely to report their cases to the authorities compared to only 30% of victims who did not receive support. This shows that the advocacy and education provided by women's organizations have a significant effect on the victim's courage to take legal action. Women's organizations not only provide emotional and psychosocial support, but also provide legal education that helps victims understand their rights. In interviews with several victims, many revealed that before receiving support from the organization, they did not know that marital rape was a reportable form of violence. Support from Komnas Perempuan, DP3A, and P2TPA helps victims realize that they have the right to fight this violence and get justice.

Apart from that, women's organizations play a role in accompanying victims during the legal process. This assistance includes assistance in gathering evidence, compiling a police report, and providing an attorney who understands the sensitivity of domestic violence cases. Data from interviews shows that 70% of victims who were accompanied by women's organizations felt more confident and safe during the legal process, compared to only 25% of victims who did not receive similar assistance. This shows that assistance from women's organizations is very crucial in increasing victims' access to justice. Advocacy carried out by women's organizations also has an impact on increasing gender sensitivity among law enforcement. Several victims reported that the police and prosecutors handling their cases became more responsive and understanding after training and outreach from women's organizations. One example is the training program carried out by DP3A in Yogyakarta, which succeeded in increasing the knowledge and skills of law enforcers in handling cases of gender-based violence.

However, this research also found that there are several challenges faced by women's organizations in supporting victims. One of them is limited resources, both in terms of funds and manpower. Some organizations reported that they had difficulty reaching all victims who needed help because of these limitations. Therefore, further support is needed from the government and society to strengthen the role of women's organizations in supporting victims of marital rape. Overall, the results of this research show that the role of women's organizations is vital in supporting victims of marital rape. Through advocacy, education, and assistance, these organizations not only help victims report the violence they experience, but also ensure that they receive the justice they deserve. Greater and sustained support from various parties is needed to strengthen these efforts and create a safer and more equitable environment for all women.

### ***Obstacles in Law Enforcement against Marital Rape***

This research reveals that one of the main obstacles in law enforcement in cases of marital rape is the lack of evidence and witnesses who can support the victim's complaint. In many cases, sexual violence that occurs in the private sphere is difficult to prove before the law because there are often no eyewitnesses or clear physical evidence. Data from the National Commission on Violence Against

Women shows that only around 25% of cases of sexual violence in marriage are reported, with the main reason being the inability of the victim to provide adequate evidence (Komnas Perempuan, 2021). This results in many cases ultimately not being able to be processed legally, leaving victims in the throes of injustice. In addition, this research found that the lack of gender sensitivity among law enforcement is a significant barrier in handling marital rape cases. Many law enforcers still view marital rape as a domestic problem that should be resolved within the family, not as a criminal act. The survey conducted in this research shows that 60% of respondents from law enforcement circles do not have special training regarding handling cases of sexual violence, especially those that occur in the context of marriage. This leads to insensitivity in handling victims' complaints, often leading to abuse of authority and abandonment of cases.

The results of in-depth interviews with victims and advocates show that victims often feel they do not receive sufficient support from the police and judicial institutions. Many victims reported that they were intimidated or forced to withdraw their complaints. For example, one victim stated that she was treated with disrespect and was threatened with retaliation by her husband if she continued with her case. Incidents like this demonstrate the need for fundamental reform in law enforcement's approach to cases of marital sexual violence. Analysis of data from interviews and surveys also shows that victims who seek justice through legal channels often experience revictimization, where they have to relive their traumatic experiences in a long and tiring legal process. As many as 70% of victims interviewed stated that they felt the current legal process caused more suffering than providing justice. This revictimization is one of the main factors that prevents victims from reporting the violence they experience. To overcome these barriers, the study recommends mandatory gender sensitivity training for all law enforcement, including police, prosecutors, and judges. This training should include an in-depth understanding of sexual violence in marriage and appropriate ways to handle victims' complaints. In addition, there needs to be a safer and more confidential reporting mechanism, as well as adequate psychosocial support services for victims throughout the legal process. In this way, it is hoped that law enforcement in cases of

marital rape can be more effective and provide true justice for the victims.

### ***Policy Implications for Victim Protection***

The results of this research indicate that existing policies in Indonesia do not fully support victims of marital rape, both from the aspect of law enforcement and psychosocial support. Analysis of data from surveys and interviews reveals that many victims feel less protected by existing laws. Even though the Law on the Elimination of Domestic Violence (UU PKDRT) has recognized sexual violence as a form of violence, its implementation is still far from optimal. Data shows that 70% of respondents felt that existing legal procedures were too complicated and did not provide adequate protection for victims. Law enforcement that is less sensitive to gender is the main obstacle in protecting victims of marital rape. From interviews with victims and legal advocates, it was revealed that many law enforcers still have a biased understanding of sexual violence in marriage. For example, only 30% of victims who reported their cases felt that they were treated fairly and non-discriminatory by the police. This shows the need for intensive training for law enforcers on gender sensitivity and handling cases of sexual violence in marriage.

Apart from law enforcement, psychosocial support for victims of marital rape is also very minimal. Interviews with organizations such as Komnas Perempuan and P2TPA show that facilities and support services for victims are often limited. From survey data, only 40% of victims stated that they received adequate psychosocial support after reporting their cases. This shows a major gap in services that should help victims recover from trauma and move on with their lives better. To address these weaknesses, comprehensive policy reform is urgently needed. The government should increase budget allocations for support services for victims, including the provision of safe protection facilities and access to psychological counselling. In addition, revisions to existing legal procedures must be carried out to ensure that victims of marital rape can access justice more easily and quickly. This policy should include mandatory training for law enforcement on handling sexual violence cases and implementing minimum service standards for victims. Implementation of this new policy must be closely monitored to ensure its effectiveness. The government can establish an independent supervisory body tasked

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with monitoring policy implementation and following up on any violations or deficiencies found. Active participation from communities and non-governmental organizations is also important in this process to ensure that victims' voices are heard and their rights are protected. In this way, more responsive policies and stronger support can be achieved, providing better protection for Muslim women victims of marital rape.

### ***Public Awareness and Education***

The survey results show that the level of public awareness about the issue of marital rape is still very low. As many as 68% of respondents stated that they did not fully understand that sexual relations without consent within marriage is a form of sexual violence. Apart from that, 52% of respondents still think that fulfilling a husband's sexual needs is the wife's absolute obligation, without considering the wife's rights and consent. In-depth interviews with victims also revealed that many of them did not report the violence they experienced due to ignorance about their rights and concerns about social stigma. These findings indicate an urgent need for comprehensive and inclusive sexual education, which includes not only biological aspects but also sexual rights and gender equality. Sexual education must start early in schools with a curriculum designed to respect individual rights and instill an understanding of the importance of consent in every sexual relationship. In addition, education for adults through public awareness campaigns is also very important. These programs should be supported by the government and implemented through various media to reach a wider audience.

The mass media has a strategic role in increasing public awareness about marital rape. Educative news coverage and television programs that discuss domestic violence issues can help change negative public perceptions. Analysis of data from this research shows that 45% of respondents received information about domestic violence issues from the mass media. Therefore, the media needs to work together with women's organizations and educational institutions to convey appropriate and informative messages regarding women's rights and the importance of consent in marriage. Collaboration with religious institutions and community leaders is also important in

efforts to increase public awareness. Religious figures have a big influence in shaping people's views and attitudes, especially in the context of a country with a majority Muslim population like Indonesia. Involving religious leaders in awareness campaigns can help reduce stigma and misinterpretation regarding the issue of marital rape. This research found that 33% of respondents admitted that they trusted information conveyed by religious figures more than other sources of information. To overcome the low level of public awareness about marital rape, a comprehensive and integrated policy is needed. The government must initiate a sustainable public education program, involving various stakeholders including educational institutions, civil society organizations, mass media, and religious institutions. In addition, there needs to be financial and technical support for organizations working on the front lines of women's empowerment and public education. With this holistic approach, it is hoped that there will be significant changes in public perception, which will ultimately support efforts to enforce the law and protect women who are victims of marital rape.

## **Conclusion**

This research reveals that society's perception of marital rape greatly influences the legal attitudes of Muslim women victims in Indonesia. Low levels of public awareness and strong social stigma mean that many victims are reluctant to report the violence they experience. Gender-biased cultural, social and religious factors also strengthen the view that sexual relations within marriage are the husband's absolute right. The results of data analysis show that comprehensive public education and collaboration with the media and religious figures are very important to change this negative perception.

Therefore, a holistic and integrative policy approach is needed to increase public awareness regarding women's rights and domestic violence. The government, together with civil society organizations, mass media and religious institutions, must play an active role in providing appropriate education and advocating for women's rights. In this way, it is hoped that a more supportive environment will be created for victims of marital rape to seek justice and protection, as well as preventing further violence in society.



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