

## Original Research Article

## Forms of Domestic Violence in Mothers during Pregnancy in Regency of West Manggarai

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**Abstract: Introduction:** Women who have a history of violence before pregnancy are more likely to experience violence again during pregnancy and will peak during the first three months of pregnancy and then decrease, while women without a history of violence have a lower likelihood of experiencing violence and abuse during pregnancy. A form of physical violence that is concerning during pregnancy is when the partner who commits violence targets the woman's stomach, so that it is not only the mother who is hurt, but has the potential to endanger the pregnancy as well such as abuse, beating, punching, slapping the face, kicking the stomach so that the victim experiences bruising on the abdomen and bleeding. **Objective:** The purpose of this study was to explore forms of domestic violence against mothers during pregnancy in West Manggarai Regency. **Method:** This research is a qualitative research that uses a phenomenological descriptive approach. The data analysis technique used is the Colaizzi method. **Result:** The results of this study indicate that there are four themes of forms of violence experienced by mothers during pregnancy. *First*, Experiencing physical violence so that bruises and wounds in several parts of the body. *Second*, their husbands are not respected and cared about and threatened. *Third*, forced to have sex even though they refuse and are tired. *Fourth*, the husband does not fulfill his monthly needs, prohibits work, and causes financial loss.

**Keywords:** Domestic Violence, Pregnant Women, Forms of Violence.

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## INTRODUCTION

Everyone who is married must have hope to have a home life that is peaceful, peaceful, happy, and far from conflict. Realizing such a household life, of course, is not an easy thing. Often conflicts occur between partners, such as one partner who cannot control himself, so that it often causes violence and makes the partner uncomfortable (Peri, 2015). Domestic violence often occurs in the community. These violences occur psychologically, physically, sexually, verbally and economically and occur regardless of the time, place, and condition of the wife (Octavia, 2008).

Violence and harassment are common among couples who are dating, married, and even couples who are no longer in a relationship. Violence that usually occurs is violence that is carried out physically, sexually, psychologically, and even financially. Physically, violence usually occurs by injuring, intimidating, humiliating, and terrorizing. Emotionally, violence usually occurs by using names harshly, acting

possessively, isolating women from their families, abusing them, threatening and alienating children from them, not allowing them to go out of the house, not allowing them to work. It must be understood that these actions are very dangerous and can occur continuously (Lowdermilk *et al.*, 2016).

Women who have a history of violence before pregnancy are more likely to experience violence again during pregnancy and will peak during the first three months of pregnancy and then decrease, while women who do not have a history of violence are less likely to experience violence and abuse during pregnancy. Based on this explanation, it is understood that pregnancy can be protective for some women, while the highest level of psychological abuse occurs in the first month after birth (Martin *et al.*, 2007).

The form of physical violence that is very concerning during pregnancy is when women receive violence such as abuse, beatings, punching, slapping the

face, kicking the stomach so that the victim often experiences bruises on the stomach and bleeding. These violences not only hurt women but have the potential to harm their pregnancies (Safari, 2015).

Based on this background, the formulation of the problem in this study is what the forms of domestic violence against mothers are during pregnancy in West Manggarai district. The purpose of this study was to explore forms of domestic violence against mothers during pregnancy in regency of West Manggarai.

## METHOD

This study uses a qualitative method with a phenomenological descriptive approach. This research was conducted in West Manggarai Regency, East Nusa Tenggara, and Indonesia. The subjects of this study were eight mothers who during pregnancy had experienced domestic violence who were selected by purposive sampling.

Informed consent was obtained from the participants prior to the interview. The researcher explained to the participants about the sensitive nature of the content of the interview questions and the researcher gave the opportunity to withdraw from the study at each stage of the interview. Interviews were conducted in a place where the privacy of the participants was guaranteed and the confidentiality of information was strictly maintained. Before the interview session began, the researcher provided time to build trust and rapport with the participants. Participants were interviewed using an interview guide which included a series of open-ended questions about experiences of domestic violence during pregnancy.

Data was collected by means of in-depth interviews and direct observation by making field notes. Thematic analysis used in this study consisted of several stages using the Colaizzi method. The interview recordings were listened to again and transcribed word for word and then identified the keywords that make up the categories, which were then arranged into sub-themes, the results of the sub-themes obtained were then grouped into one group of themes.

## RESULT

The results of this study indicate that there are four themes of forms of violence experienced by mothers during pregnancy, namely Theme 1: Experiencing physical violence resulting in bruises and wounds in several parts of the body, Theme 2: Not being respected and cared for by husbands and receiving threats, Theme 3: Forced having sex even though they refuse and are tired, Theme 4: Husband does not fulfill monthly needs, prohibits work, and causes financial loss.

### Theme 1

#### Experiencing Physical Violence So Bruises and Wounds in Several Parts of the Body

Participants received violence from their husbands in the form of slapping in the face and being pushed to the floor. This is based on excerpts from interviews with participants as follows:

- ... at that time I found evidence in the form of text messages that he was having an affair with another woman. I was very angry and I said that he was cheating on me, then he slapped me... (P3)
- ... he slapped me until the neighbors saw... (P1)
- ... he once slapped me because we were arguing about something... (P7)
- ... he slapped me on the cheek and pushed me down on the floor... (P2)
- ...because he was emotional, he slapped me twice... (P6)
- ... because he didn't accept my argument, he pushed me to the ground ... (P4)

Husbands often commit violence even though the participant is pregnant. Violence committed such as hitting and elbowing the stomach, the husband also grabbed and cut the hair of the participants. This is based on the results of interviews with participants as follows:

- .... Even though he knew that I was pregnant, maybe because he was emotional, he hit my stomach... (P6)
- .... He hit my stomach... (P1)
- ... when I got home, he grabbed my hair right away... (P1)
- ... while I was still sitting and didn't want to get up, he grabbed my hair all the way to the room ... (P8)
- ... at that time, I was combing my hair, then he said that I was busy taking care of my hair to be liked by other men. Since I didn't accept it, I argued with him. Then all he did was cut my hair. He did it because he was jealous... (P4)

An emotional husband often kicks even to the point of stepping on the face. This is based on the results of interviews with participants as follows:

- .... when he is emotional, he always kicks me. It doesn't matter if I'm pregnant or not. He continues to abuse me. It's like he doesn't care about me... (P8)
- ...he kicked my waist... (P4)
- .... because he is not satisfied, so he always kicks me ... (P2)
- ... even though I was already dizzy, but he kept kicking me from behind and I was pushed against the wall of the house ... (P6)
- ... He kicked me until I fell on the floor. When I fell, he stepped on my face... (P5)
- ...he stepped on my face really hard... (P1)

Husbands resort to violence not only with their bare hands but also with objects such as glass and wood. This is based on excerpts from interviews with participants as follows:

- ... even though I asked nicely to him about why he came home late. As a pregnant wife really needs attention. He didn't accept what I said, he threw a glass at me and my lips hurt... (P3)
- .... I've often received violence from him. Often times he throws a glass at me...(P7)
- ... while I was washing dishes, suddenly he hit me from behind with a broom... (P8)
- ... every time he got emotional, he always hit me. Often times he hits me with a stick... (P7)

Participants suffered injuries in several parts of their bodies due to physical violence by their husbands, such as bruises, abrasions and injuries. This is based on the following excerpts from interviews with participants:

- .... My waist got swollen because he kicked...(P4)
- .... My thighs are bruised and swollen... (P6)
- .... He stepped on almost all parts of my body. My back is bruised... (P5)
- ...my leg hurts so much from my pull...(P1)
- .... My face is swollen because he stepped on... (P1)
- .... My face is swollen because he slapped...(P2)
- .... my cheeks hurt so much because he slapped...(P3)
- .... My face hurts all because he slapped...(P6)
- .... My cheek hurts so much because he slapped... (P7)
- .... My lips are chafed and swollen because he hit ... (P3)
- .... My forehead is swollen from being thrown with a glass... (P7)
- ...my hand was scratched and bleeding because he threw it with a chair...(P5)
- ...my hand is bleeding from fighting for scissors with him... (P4)

## Theme 2

### Not Appreciated And Cared For By Husband And Threatened

Participants felt that their husbands did not care about the participants when the participants were pregnant. Whereas as a pregnant wife really needs attention from her husband. Participants were not accompanied during pregnancy check-ups and did not visit when participants were sick. The husband thought that the participants could do all their own business. This is based on the following excerpts from interviews with participants:

- ... the husband never visits his wife who is pregnant or sick. Although the wife often calls and asks her husband to visit, the husband always argues that he is busy ... (P3)

- ... I had a miscarriage and my husband still didn't care about my condition... (P1)
- ... The husband never once took his wife to do an examination at the midwife...(P7)
- ... I always went to the midwife myself to do a checkup. My husband never accompanied me. Sometimes I go with my sister... (P4)
- ...husband always reasoned that he was busy whenever I asked to be accompanied for an examination ... (P5)
- ...my husband always ignores me whenever I complain about my pregnancy...(P2)
- ... even though I complained that I was sick and asked to be accompanied for a check-up, my husband always argued that he couldn't leave his job. So I always...(P6)
- ... husband often says that he doesn't have time to accompany me...(P1)

Participants felt that their husbands were belittled both through their words and actions by their husbands, such as insulting and cheating on the participants. The husband also thought that pregnancy made the participants less able to take care of the housework and take care of themselves. This is based on the following excerpts from interviews with participants:

- .... husband often underestimates me. My husband always told me not to interfere in his work. He often said that I just finished elementary school and didn't understand his job...(P8)
- ... my husband always underestimated me. She often said that I didn't understand how to be a mother and take care of a child... (P2)
- ... my husband often humiliated me in front of his family. He often said that I couldn't take care of myself and clean the house... (P3)
- ... she often said that I was a lazy girl... (P6)
- ... every time he gets emotional, my husband often says that I am pregnant with another man's child... (P4)
- ... maybe because he wanted to cover up his actions when he cheated on another woman, so he often said that I was the one having an affair... (P6)
- ...she doesn't think about my feelings when she curses me in front of other people...(P2)
- ... I was very embarrassed when he cursed me in front of the neighbors... (P7)
- ... if he is emotional, then all his harsh words will come out even in front of other people ... (P6)

The husband made sentences that made the participants feel afraid and threatened. This is usually done so that the husband can easily control his wife. This is based on excerpts from interviews with participants, namely:

- ... I am very afraid to fight. Because if I fight, he will threaten me with a knife and will kill me...(P5)

- ... *I can only be silent when my husband is angry. He always threatens that he won't take responsibility...*(P4)

### Theme 3

#### Forced to have sex despite refusing and being tired

Participants still try to serve their husbands even though they don't want to and feel tired, this is done to keep the relationship with their husbands good. This is based on excerpts from interviews with participants, namely:

- ... *my husband still doesn't care even though I just got home from work and I'm still tired. He keeps asking me to serve him sexual intercourse...*(P2)
- ... *even though I was tired and didn't want to serve him for sex, my husband still forced me to serve him for sex. If I refused, he would get angry and wouldn't talk to me. So I was forced to have sex with him...*(P6)

Sex must be agreed and mutually desired by husband and wife otherwise it will harm either party. Threats made by one party make the other partner feel threatened and very afraid, so he is forced to obey his will to have sex. This is based on excerpts from interviews with participants, namely:

- ... *when I was two months pregnant, my husband kept forcing me to have sex...* (P8)
- ... *every time my husband asked to be served sexual intercourse, then I had to comply. If I refuse, he will hit me....* (P7)

### Theme 4

#### Husband Doesn't Meet Monthly Needs, Forbids Work and Loss Finance

The husband does not fulfill his obligation to provide a living or income to the participants which makes the participants sometimes have to buy everything using their own income, even the participants do not know how much the husband's income is. This is based on the results of interviews with participants, namely:

- ... *my husband has never been open about finances. In fact very often he does not give shopping money. Even though the money he gave was used to buy food...* (P1)
- ... *my husband very rarely gives me money to buy necessities ...* (P6)
- ... *I never know how much my husband earns every month. Even I never received money from my husband...* (P3)
- ... *I never knew about my husband's salary. I never dared to ask...* (P4)
- ... *I always use my own money to buy necessities. In fact I pay with my own money every time I go for my pregnancy check-up. I'm lucky because I have my own salary although it's not much...* (P6)

Participants are prohibited or restricted from working, even though they want to increase their income which they feel is lacking, the husband prohibits participants from working for certain reasons. This is based on excerpts from interviews with participants, namely:

- ... *I have asked my husband for permission several times so that I can be allowed to work. But my husband never gave permission...* (P4)
- ... *I was forced to quit my job because my husband forced me to. She's afraid that I'm cheating on someone else...* (P7)

The husband uses the wife's income for something unknown that causes the participant to suffer losses. This is based on excerpts from interviews with participants, namely:

- ... *to be honest I was stressed by my husband's behavior. He always takes the money I get from selling online. He never replaced. I also never knew what he used the money for without my knowledge...* (P5)
- ... *The salary that my husband receives he always spends playing gambling. When I want to pay arisan, then I use my own money...* (P6)

## DISCUSSION

### Experiencing Physical Violence resulting in Bruises and Wounds in Several Parts of the Body

This theme is based on participant statements from the results of the interview, namely participants were slapped on the cheek, pushed to the floor, beaten in the stomach, husband pulled hair, husband grabbed hair, forced hair clipped, body kicked by husband and stepped on the face then thrown with a glass and hit by wood resulting in bruises on the body and legs, red and swollen cheeks, swollen lips and forehead and blisters as well as injured hands.

This is in line with the research of Berhanie *et al.* (2019) which found that one form of violence experienced by women during pregnancy is physical violence such as being slapped, kicked, dragged or hit, hit with a fist, choking or deliberately burned, then threatening or using a weapon. to fight. Physical violence is carried out by using the perpetrator's limbs (hands, feet) or with other tools (Aryati, 2019). Physical violence is an act that results in pain, illness or serious injury. Violent behavior included in this group includes slapping, hitting, spitting, pulling hair (picking), kicking, cornering with cigarettes, hitting/injuring with weapons, and so on. Usually this treatment will look like welts, bruises on the face, broken teeth or other scars (Sutrisminah, 2012).

Participants in this study revealed that they experienced bruises on their bodies and legs, red and swollen cheeks, swollen lips and forehead and abrasions as well as injured hands due to the violence they

experienced. This is supported by the results of research from Wati (2019) which says that the physical violence experienced by the victim is that most victims are beaten with their hands such as being slapped and punched and kicked as a result, the victim suffers physical injuries, bruises, swelling on the body and serious injuries, so they must be referred to a home. Sick, then the victim was also slapped, resulting in swelling, bruising, bruising and turning blue on the victim's body and face.

### **Not Appreciated and Cared for by Husbands and Getting Threats**

This theme is based on the participant's statement which says that the husband never accompanies the pregnancy check-up and is ignored when he is sick, is considered to know nothing, is considered unable to take care of housework while pregnant, is considered unable to take care of himself, berated, not respected and also often get threats from her husband.

Berhanie *et al.* (2019) found that the types of psychological violence that victims often experience are insulting and making the victim feel bad about themselves, belittling or humiliating the victim in front of others, doing things to scare or intimidate the victim on purpose, threatening to harm the victim. Victim or someone the victim loves. Violent behavior which includes psychological abuse, namely humiliation, comments that are hurtful or demeaning to self-esteem, isolating the wife from the outside world, threatening or frightening as a means of imposing one's will (Saragih, 2017).

Psychological violence is the type of violence most experienced by victims and generally occurs before pregnancy and continues throughout pregnancy. Men who commit violence may feel resentful that their pregnant partner is less able to do household chores (Berhanie *et al.*, 2019). Based on the results of research by Izaguirre & Calvete (2019), victims experience verbal abuse in the form of threats and criticism of their household skills. In this study, participants were considered unable to take care of housework and take care of themselves during pregnancy and were also verbally abused and threatened.

### **Forced to have sex despite refusing and being tired**

This theme is based on the participant's statement that even though they are tired of working, they must still serve their husbands, even if they are not in the mood, they must serve their husbands, even though they have refused but the husbands still force to have sex, they are beaten if they refuse to have sex.

Sexual violence can cause disturbances in reproductive function, irregular menstruation, frequent miscarriages, and difficulty enjoying sexual relations (Hasanah *et al.*, 2006). According to the Dixon-Mudler

model (1993) in Sutrisminah (2021) regarding the relationship between the framework of sexuality or gender with reproductive health; forced sexual intercourse or acts of violence against the wife affect the sexual health of the wife. So acts of violence in the context of reproductive health can be considered acts that threaten the wife's sexual health, because it interferes with the psychology of the wife, both during sexual intercourse or not.

Sexual violence includes a range of sexual activities that include unwanted kissing, touching, or fondling; sexual coercion; and rape (ACOG, 2012). In this study, it was found that four out of eight participants still had to serve their husbands even though they were tired

### **Husband Doesn't Meet Monthly Needs, Forbids Work and Loss Finance**

This theme is based on the participant's statement which states that the husband's needs are not met, he is not allowed to work and he suffers losses because of his husband. This is in line with the research conducted by Putri *et al.* (2019) where one form of economic violence experienced by pregnant women is not getting a living from their husbands. Based on Nisa's research (2018), one of the forms of economic violence experienced by victims is being prohibited from working and doing activities outside the home. The results of the research by Postmus *et al.* (2012) of 120 people who participated 94% experienced forms of economic abuse such as economic control, economic exploitative behavior and experienced job sabotage. Women lose the freedom to choose how they want to manage their property and spend their money on basic necessities (Tavares & Wodon, 2018).

Livelihood is spending for life, income money, besides that it also means daily living provisions. In this case, the income is the money given by the husband to spend on his family's life. If all of these needs are not met, it can be said to be household neglect (Sudono, 2014). Included in the category of household neglect is to limit or prohibit someone from working properly inside or outside the home (Fitriani *et al.*, 2015). Economic violence also includes using credit cards without permission and gambling with family property (Sharp, 2008).

## **CONCLUSION**

The results of interviews with eight participants were analyzed using the Colaizzi method and produced four main themes, namely: Experiencing physical violence resulting in bruises and wounds in several parts of the body, not being respected and cared for by their husbands and receiving threats, being forced to have sex even though they refuse and are tired, husbands do not fulfill their obligations. Monthly necessities prohibit work and are financially detrimental.

An education program on domestic violence is needed, to find out the right reception and screening for victims through an understanding of their feelings, appropriate communication skills and effective interventions to protect these victims. Future research should include women from different backgrounds, identification of high-risk groups, the relationship between partner personality and violence, and men's perceptions of their violent behavior.

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