

DEFINITIONS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WIVES AMONG INDONESIAN SOCIAL WORK COLLEGE STUDENTS

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Abstract

Violence against wives is the most common form of violence against women reported in Indonesia. Understanding the definition of violence against wives is one of first steps to address the problem given that recognition about what constitutes violent behaviors has an influence on how society responds to victims and perpetrators. The study described and examined factors associated with the attitudes of Muslim undergraduate social welfare students toward definitions of violence against wives using socio-demographic and socio-cultural perspectives. Samples were selected non-randomly using convenience sampling techniques. Data were collected through a self-administered survey taken by 275 students in the social welfare department of two separate universities located in the provinces of Yogyakarta and East Java late 2016. Data was analyzed using hierarchical regressions techniques. The study found that students generally reported stronger agreement to viewing physical violence as a form of violence against wives. On the contrary, they were less likely to view non-physical violence as violent behavior. Gender, attitudes toward gender roles, and type of university were found to be associated with attitudes toward the definition of violence against wives. Implications from the findings were discussed, taking into account the roles of educational institutions in shaping the students' attitudes.

Keywords: Attitudes, college students, definitions violence against wives, socio-cultural factors, socio-demographic factors.

1. Introduction

Violence against wives is one of the most common forms of intimate partner violence against women that occurs in all settings and among all socioeconomic, religious and cultural groups (World Health Organization, 2016). Violence against wives is viewed as any behavior perpetrated by the husbands against the wives that causes physical, psychological or sexual harm to wives. This

can take form as physical, sexual, psychological, and economic violence. Each type of violence may be performed specifically or together at the same time. Physical violence covers a range of acts that use physical force to inflict injuries on or even cause the death of victims such as the use of weapons, slapping, hitting, kicking, choking, and so on. Sexual violence includes forced sexual intercourse and different forms of sexual coercion.