

# GENDER SENSITIVE JOURNALISM IN HARIAN KOMPAS AS A MEDIA ADVOCACY AGAINST WOMEN'S SEXUAL VIOLENCE

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## ABSTRACT

Cases of sexual violence against women are steadily increasing every year, as well as the news of these cases. Despite that, often the media exploits victims and their stories. Therefore, the media has a responsibility to support the victims to get their rights. Reporting with gender-sensitive journalism is a media reference in advocating for victims/survivors of sexual violence. This study aimed to determine the application of gender-sensitive journalism in *Harian Kompas* as a media advocacy against sexual violence. This study is based on the concept of Gendered Perspective Journalism, Gender Sensitive Journalism, Press Language in Reporting Sexual Violence, and Advocacy Journalism. This research applied qualitative research methods. The results of this study indicated that *Harian Kompas* covers cases of sexual violence based on the perspective of victims to protect victims and help the survivors to get justice. Furthermore, as a form of advocacy journalism, *Harian Kompas* also provides a large space for victims to speak out in the *Harian Kompas*. *Harian Kompas* pays close attention to the diction used when writing the news because wrong diction will encourage stigma and stereotypes for victims of sexual violence.

**Keywords:** Sexual violence, Mass media, Gender-sensitive journalism, News, Women

## INTRODUCTION

Journalists are the ones who construct a reality (Tamburaka, 2012). Thus, journalists play an important role in distinguishing between the image of reality and the actual reality. The media's content is the result of the construction of various realities by journalists, then compiling them into a story or a meaningful discourse (Suryadi, 2011). Reality is based on an issue raised in the news, built by journalists with a specific meaning and purpose. The media has a big influence on how people think. People behind the media screen have a significant influence on the process of producing, editing and disseminating news to the

public. Therefore, in newsrooms where gender bias is prevalent (Aliansi Journalis Independen, 2015).

In order to promote gender equality, the media must become an active partner. An important step that journalists can take as an active partner in gender equality issues is to raise awareness when producing news that leads to a reduction in the gender gap (Popa & Gavrilu, 2015). However, in practice, there are many media outlets that are unable to portray reality as it is, because the media lives in a dynamic social environment (Baharuddin et al., 2022; Jubba et al., 2020; Suryadi, 2011; Widayat et al., 2022). When people in the newsroom lack a gendered understanding so the reality they create in the form of news also contains gender bias and will affect readers.

Often the news of sexual violence is carried out in detail regardless of the feelings of the victim or survivor. The media does not think that individuals who experience such events can become victims of violence repeatedly. The first is a victim of a sexual assault case, and the second is a victim of inaccurate media reporting. The news of bad sexual violence cases causes victims to get a negative stigma and be treated poorly by society (Rakhmawati, 2015). Not only do journalists appear to lack understanding of the boundaries in reporting cases of sexual violence, but they also use language or diction that lacks a gender perspective.

The media can side with victims and survivors by applying gender-sensitive journalism in reporting on sexual violence. Mukhotib MD explaining the principles and techniques in journalism with a gender perspective becomes very important because it will determine the limits of the news written by the journalist, which then affects the readers. A journalist can erase stereotypes, sharpen or even want to perpetuate them (MD, 1998).

If someone working in the media has knowledge of gender-sensitive journalism, there is a good chance that they will use it in every report, not just in cases of sexual harassment. In addition, it is not expected that the mass media will exploit sex abuse cases, rather the media must do more to support sex abuse cases by conducting gender-sensitive research and advocating for sex abuse victims.

This type of advocacy journalism could be useful in reporting cases of sexual violence. Advocacy journalism seeks to bring to light the voices of victims who do not have the time to speak out because they are mistreated by the media. Advocacy journalism helps victims of sexual violence by changing previously constructed realities about victims' negative views into positive views, as well as changing behaviors and attitudes in making policies or regulations (Rakhmawati, 2015). Advocacy journalism is a type of media support for victims and survivors of sexual violence.

The role of the media in cases of sexual violence is critical, both in terms of how the media covers the cases and as a tool used by activists and policymakers to raise awareness and mobilize gender issues. This is because the media, public opinion, and policy have a complex relationship (Băluță, 2007). Women require a medium that works in their favor. Especially as a form of support to help women escape negative stereotypes in cases of sexual violence. Gender-sensitive media can provide media support to victims and survivors of sexual violence.

Komnas Perempuan in its annual daily record in 2019 recorded 406,178 reported cases of women's violence throughout 2018 (Yunidar, 2019). The above cases and other cases of sexual violence did not escape the news in the media. The high enthusiasm of the public on violent news, makes the media often raise news about violence (Olivia, 2020).

Komisioner Komnas Perempuan, explained that the media still does not meet the rules of the journalistic code of ethics, especially in reporting on sexual violence experienced by women. In addition, looking at the content of the news, there are still many media that lead readers to judge victims. The journalistic code of ethics in question, The code of ethics in reporting sexual violence is to protect the identity of victims, including their name, address, and school, and face. Then, the second code of ethics that must be understood is not to write sensational news that exploits the victim (Triantono et al., 2022).

Demonstrates that the goal of gender-sensitive journalism is to address gender inequality within and through the media. Therefore, the coverage of feminist and women's issues is less important. The most important thing is to form critical journalism that advocates for gender equality. Another gender-sensitive journalism goal is to reduce the marginalization of women in the media. Victims of sexual violence are often marginalized and exploited in the media. The media should not exploit victims of sexual assault and become 'second rapists'. Instead, the media must be able to speak for the victim in order to obtain justice and their rights (Minić, 2010).

This can be accomplished by implementing advocacy journalism, which shares a common thread with gender-sensitive journalism, in that victim-perspective reporting supports victims and survivors to get their rights in the form of justice. The use of advocacy journalism in reporting cases of sexual violence can be a solution because advocacy journalism favors victims by seeking justice for them (Rakhmawati, 2015; Wade, 2011).

Although there is no guarantee that cases of sexual violence will decrease if the media reports on sexual violence in a way that supports the victim. However, with the ability of the media to shape public opinion, the mass media can form a certain image of sexual violence. If the mass media reports 'true' rape news, it will affect society's image of rape is a case that must be addressed together. This is the contribution of the mass media in the fight against rape (Abrar, 2016).

Furthermore, currently, the position of editor in chief of *Harian Kompas* is a woman and has a background in gender education. The editor-in-chief plays a role in the emergence of news in the media. If the editor-in-chief has gender sensitivity, then under the auspices of the media can be more sensitive to gender, especially news of sexual violence (MD, 1998). Aside from the above problems, the research question in this study is how is the application of gender-sensitive journalism in *Harian Kompas* as media advocacy in cases of women's sexual violence?

*Harian Kompas* is the largest and most influential newspaper in Indonesia, so in its reporting, it has a greater opportunity to form public opinion on a particular issue. Regarding women's issues, especially cases of sexual violence, *Harian Kompas* forms the issue with gender-friendly news by not leading readers to give bad stigma and stereotypes to victims of sexual violence. This is a form of support for victims of sexual violence.

This was also influenced by the editor-in-chief of *Harian Kompas* who has an educational background in the fields of gender and women. It is known that the influence of the editor-in-chief is very influential in the policy. So that the media can produce editorial policies that avoid making women objects to be exploited for the benefit of the media. Thus, the proposition in this study is that the *Harian Kompas* Newspaper applies gender-sensitive journalism as a form of advocacy journalism in cases of sexual violence against women.

News coverage that fulfills victims' rights can be achieved by *Harian Kompas* by applying the concepts of journalism with a gender perspective and gender-sensitive journalism. Journalism with a gender perspective explains the difference between neutral journalists and journalists with a gender perspective. Then, the concept of Gender Sensitive Journalism is a benchmark in the *Harian Kompas* news regarding women who are sensitive to gender.

Both concepts discuss the language of the press in reporting cases of sexual violence. The language used by *Kompas Daily* must be free from directional bias because bias can lead readers to place women on a negative side or objectify women.

So, to support victims/survivors of sexual violence to get justice, *Harian Kompas* also applies advocacy journalism by using a diction that defends victims and puts victims on the positive side in writing news about women's issues, especially cases of sexual violence. The application of advocacy journalism in cases of sexual violence can provide space for victims to have a voice in *Harian Kompas*. In addition, *Kompas Daily* places the issue of sexual violence as an issue of serious violations of human rights (HAM) to achieve the goal of its reporting, namely justice for the victims.

Furthermore, gender-sensitive journalism and advocacy journalism have the same thread in reporting cases of sexual violence on *Harian Kompas*. Therefore, the application of these concepts can be a strength of *Kompas Daily* in creating a media agenda that drives public opinion to be gender sensitive, then influences the policy agenda, so that policies can be created with a victim's perspective.

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

This research uses qualitative research methods with an interpretive paradigm. This type of research is descriptive. The data collection techniques used in this study are in-depth interviews with media practitioners and documents, such as journalists from *Harian Kompas* (Informant #2) and editors of *Harian Kompas* (Informant #1), and observers from gender activists (Informant #4) and the Alliance of Independent Journalists (informant #3). The selection of informants was selected using a purposive sampling technique, namely choosing certain informants, such as journalists who work on women's job desk and humanities, as well as the views of experts engaged in the field of women's protection. Data analysis techniques from Miles and Hurbernas will be validated using triangulation techniques. This research can be tested for the validity of the data using source triangulation. Researchers understand various perspectives from the results of interviews conducted with journalists and editors of *Kompas Daily*, the Alliance of Indonesian Independent Journalists, gender activists, and the Indonesian Family Planning Association (NGO). This is to see the similarities and differences in the answers of the informants.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**


### **1. Reporting on Sexual Violence Cases in *Harian Kompas***

The consideration of *Harian Kompas* in reporting cases of sexual violence is justice for victims who are considered to have received less attention. Reporting on sexual violence cases in favor of victims focuses on supporting and helping victims get their rights, which is in the form of justice and protection. The protection in question is to protect the identity of the victim.

*Harian Kompas* does not write the identity of the victim in the form of the name, address, school, or even the victim's parents, relatives, or friends, because it makes it easier for others to track the victim. *Harian Kompas* also does not contain photos of victims even with the victim's consent. As for the inclusion of the victim's name, *Harian Kompas* chose to use initials instead of pseudonyms on the grounds that in real life there are people who live with the names used as pseudonyms, as informant #1's statement below states.

“ And we won't write the address, the address of the event [...] the address of the victim or the perpetrator *well*, that. [...] Even we choose the name [...] if there are initials [...] initials. But the police frequently refuse to use the initials, instead referring to it as Bunga or Melati. If that us, we won't use it, because in [...] everyday life there's someone's name called Melati, and Mawar so we can't mention it.” (Interviewed with Yovita, May 9, 2019).

The ultimate goal of reporting on sexual violence cases is to provide justice for victims. However, there are still many victims who are hiding and are afraid to make a voice. As a result, *Harian Kompas* tries to offer protection for victims who have been silent to get justice through the law. Informant #2 stated that so far there are still many victims who bear the burden of the events they have experienced, without getting justice. This can be seen in the following news clippings:



**JANGAN BERI PANGGUNG KEPADA PELAKU KEKERASAN SEKSUAL**  
Oleh: SONYA HELLEN SINOMBOR Selasa, 04 Jun 2019 18:34 WIB

JAKARTA, KOMPAS — Jaringan Solidaritas untuk Korban Kekerasan Seksual dari berbagai komunitas/lembaga dan aktivis hak asasi manusia mempertanyakan mendelakunya kasus kekerasan seksual yang menimpa RW saat menjadi mahasiswa Universitas Indonesia. Hampir enam tahun, kasus tersebut tidak jelas kelanjutannya dan tidak ada kepastian.

Di tengah ketidakpastian kasus tersebut dan korban belum mendapat keadilan, Jaringan Solidaritas untuk Korban Kekerasan Seksual juga menyatakan keprihatinan karena pelakunya, SS (seniman/penyair), yang dilaporkan sebagai terdakwa dalam kasus ini tidak tersentuh hukum dan sebaliknya mendapat tempat untuk tampil di publik.

“Di tengah ketidakpastian penyelesaian proses hukum kasus kekerasan seksual tersebut, terdakwa malah terlibat di sejumlah kegiatan kesenian, baik sebagai seniman maupun sebagai pendukung,” ujar Olin Monteiro, mewakili Jaringan Solidaritas untuk Korban Kekerasan Seksual, Senin (3/6/2019), di Jakarta.

Pada 27–28 April 2019, misalnya, terdakwa SS menjadi bagian dari penulis pentas/ penyelenggaraan pentas teater *Srinthi* yang juga bekerja sama dengan beberapa seniman yang menyewa tempat di Komunitas Salihara. SS juga terlibat di salah satu festival di Yogyakarta pada pertengahan Juni 2019.

Kasus kekerasan yang menimpa RW terungkap akhir tahun 2013. Mahasiswa UI tersebut melaporkan SS, salah satu seniman ternama, karena melakukan pelecehan seksual terhadap dirinya yang berujung pada kehamilan. Kasus tersebut berawal ketika RW melakukan tugas penelitian kebudayaan dan bertemu dengan SS. Kasus ini ramai diberitakan media, bahkan organisasi kemahasiswaan di UI pun mengangkat kasus tersebut. Namun, hingga kini kasus tersebut mandek tidak jelas kelanjutannya.

Meihat ketidaktastian nukum dan peaku masin bebas tampil di publik, Jaringan Solidaritas untuk Korban Kekerasan Seksual menuntut semua komunitas seni dan galeri seni di Indonesia untuk tidak memberikan akses pertunjukan kesenian kepada pelaku kekerasan seksual.

Begitu juga lembaga negara, kedutaan besar, atau perusahaan serta penyandang dana untuk kesenian dan budaya di Indonesia diimbau agar tidak memberikan dukungan dana kepada seniman dari kelompok seni atau komunitas seni yang memiliki permasalahan terkait kekerasan seksual.

“Harusnya proses hukum berlanjut. Teman-teman bereaksi karena pelaku yang dianggap harus bertanggung jawab dibiarkan bebas. Kalau prosesnya mandek, lalu bagaimana pertanggungjawabannya kasus ini. Harus ada kejelasan hukum atas kasus ini,” ucap Tommy.

**Hingga kini, meski menjadi “rahasia umum” atau ada mahasiswa yang mengaku menjadi korban kasus pelecehan seksual di kampus, tidak banyak kasus yang benar-benar terungkap di publik dan diproses hukum.**

Kasus kekerasan yang menimpa RW terungkap akhir tahun 2013. Mahasiswa UI tersebut melaporkan SS, salah satu seniman ternama, karena melakukan pelecehan seksual terhadap dirinya yang berujung pada kehamilan. Kasus tersebut berawal ketika RW melakukan tugas penelitian kebudayaan dan bertemu dengan SS. Kasus ini ramai diberitakan media, bahkan organisasi kemahasiswaan di UI pun mengangkat kasus tersebut. Namun, hingga kini kasus tersebut mandek tidak jelas kelanjutannya.

### Image 1: *Harian Kompas* 'Jangan Beri Panggung kepada Pelaku Kekerasan Seksual'

Sumber: (Sinombor, 2019)

Based on the picture above, *Harian Kompas* news is shown with the headline 'Don't Give Stage to Perpetrators of Sexual Violence'. The report criticized the perpetrators of rape who are well-known artists who have been free from legal proceedings and are still active in many artistic activities. *Harian Kompas* covers the perspective of various institutions/activists who join the Solidarity Network for Victims of Sexual Violence

(JSKKS) organization which criticizes the freedom of the perpetrators and the legal process that does not work it does not provide justice to the victims.

Therefore, one of the purposes of reporting on cases of sexual violence in *Harian Kompas* is to monitor the ongoing legal process, so that the judge's decision can be in favor of the victim. Then Kompas Daily urged the government to take action on cases that ended in court, without producing justice for the victims. This can be seen in the following news clippings:

JAKARTA, KOMPAS – Putusan Mahkamah Agung yang menolak permohonan Peninjauan Kembali dari Baiq Nuril Makuun, mantan tenaga honorer di SMA Negeri 7 Mataram, Nusa Tenggara Barat terus menjadi sorotan publik. Meskipun sudah ada penjelasan pihak Mahkamah Agung tentang alasan penolakan PK, sejumlah kalangan tetap mempertanyakan hakim yang mengadili perkara Baiq Nuril yang dinilai tidak memiliki perspektif jender.

Bahkan Komisi Nasional Anti Kekerasan terhadap Perempuan (Komnas Perempuan) menyalkan putusan tersebut. Meski menghargai putusan MA sebagai kewenangan peradilan yang tidak boleh di intervensi, Komnas Perempuan menyatakan seharusnya hakim menggunakan Peraturan Mahkamah Agung RI Nomor 3 Tahun 2017 (Perma 3/2017) tentang Pedoman Mengadili Perkara Perempuan Berhadapan dengan Hukum.

"Padahal, Perma 3/2017 adalah sebuah langkah maju dalam sistem hukum di Indonesia dalam mengenali hambatan akses perempuan pada keadilan. Perma tersebut adalah sebuah langkah afirmasi dalam menciptakan kesetaraan (seluruh warga negara) di hadapan hukum," ujar Komisiner Komnas Perempuan Budi Wahyuni, dalam keterangan pers, Senin (8/7/2019) di Jakarta.

#### Sejumlah kekecewaan

LBH APIK menemukan sejumlah kekecewaan dalam proses persidangan perkara tersebut. Contohnya, hakim yang memeriksa hanya satu orang tapi dalam putusan disebutkan tiga orang. Saat pemeriksaan korban tidak boleh didampingi pendamping dan orangtua, dan di persidangan kedua korban juga dipertemukan dengan pelaku ruang sidang tanpa didampingi oleh orangtua dan pendamping. "Kami berharap sidang kasasi segera, agar korban mendapat keadilan," ujar UH.

Kasus pemerkosaan terhadap kakak beradik mengundang keprihatinan, pelaku H yang merupakan tetangga mereka, melakukan kekerasan seksual berulang kali semenjak Joni berumur 12 tahun dan Jeni berumur 4 tahun. Kasus ini diproses hukum, setelah orangtua melaporkan ke kepolisian. Jaka menuntut terdakwa 14 tahun penjara dan denda 30 juta rupiah, tetapi dalam putusan yang dibacakan 25 Maret 2019 lalu terdakwa dibebaskan. Jaka kemudian mengajukan kasasi atas putusan tersebut.

Selain gencar diberitakan media, kecaman, kritik, laporan, dan pengaduan masyarakat akhirnya sampai ke MA. Atas laporan itu, pimpinan MA memerintahkan badan pengawas melakukan klarifikasi dan verifikasi. Pada Senin (29/4/2019) lalu, MA menyampaikan telah menindak tiga hakim PN Cibinong yang mengadili perkara itu termasuk

### **Image 2: Berita *Harian Kompas* 'Perma 3/17 Tak Digunakan, MA Terus Disorot Publik' (Left) dan Berita *Harian Kompas* 'Beri Keadilan Bagi Korban Kekerasan Seksual Pada Anak' (Right)**

(Sumber: Kompas.id, 2019)

Based on the picture above, can be seen in *Harian Kompas's* report entitled 'Perma 3/17 Not Used, Supreme Court Continues to Be Highlighted by the Public', which reported on the decision of the Supreme Court (MA) which did not have a victim's perspective by rejecting a review (PK) of the Baiq Nuril case. In this report, *Harian Kompas* reports based on the perspective of a number of people who think judges do not have a gender perspective. Then, the news with the title 'Give Justice to Victims of Sexual Violence in Children' explained the irregularities of the judge handling the J n J rape case, in the end, the perpetrator of the rape was acquitted by the judge. This case was heavily reported on Kompas Daily and received public criticism. This prompted the Supreme Court leadership to take action. This means that *Harian Kompas* plays an important role in overseeing the legal process in cases of sexual violence by criticizing judges when their decisions are not fair to the victim.

*Harian Kompas* puts women on the positive side, specifically by not giving negative stereotypes and stigma to victims in the news. This is done to protect the victim from exploitation. Informant #2 claimed to have never raised stereotyped matters, such as describing the victim's physique and clothing. It is considered to be able to produce biased writing and put women on the negative side. Therefore, *Harian Kompas* prefers to place the victim as a woman who can empower herself, as stated by informant #2 below:

"I have never, ever entered the territory of writing a case of violence because for me [...] it's stereotypes and [...] knocks us downright...Yes, that's why they used those pure white-faced mothers, but what's the point? Yes right? especially

among the most popular online girls [...] the beautiful girl is raped, yes, as if she were a beautiful girl..." (Interviewed with Sonya, May 15, 2019)

*Harian Kompas* only uses the word for example 'raped' to write down the chronology of rape cases. This is done to avoid the appearance of reader fears and to respect the feelings of the victim and the victim's family, as in informant #1's quote:

"The perpetrator's stringency is sufficiently explained in words, for example 'heinously raped and tortured' so as not to cause horror for readers considering that Kompas is common news, anyone can read, including from any age group. (Interviewed with Yovita, May 9, 2019)

This is because for *Harian Kompas* the word 'rape' already describes the event of forced sexual relations without having to be accompanied by other words. Here's a statement from informant #1:

"... we see that there is rape, *clear*, what is called rape is that there must be coercion, right, if the connotation of rape is that there must be coercion without us having to explain what kind of coercion it is, the person raping is [...] the rape will be lustful without us having to explain we are actually drawn there." (Interviewed with Yovita, May 9, 2019)

Journalists of *Harian Kompas* are encouraged to understand the diction used by rereading their writings and to know the impact on victims. Therefore, *Harian Kompas* has a language alignment team that checks the diction of journalists' writings before sending it to the editor, as stated by informant #1:

"The language alignment is more of a [...] the language itself but if they find there is a diction that [...] is strange, that they will definitely give input. Then from the language alignment still to the presenting, and editing it's the editor as well, so he's the last editor, well this last editor also filters. The wording is like this..." (Interviewed with Yovita, May 9, 2019)

In addition to writing news in proper diction, *Harian Kompas* pays close attention to the *angle* of sexual violence news that does not sensational. Therefore, *Harian Kompas* does not describe in detail the chronology of sexual violence events and avoids news that is memorably vulgar. This is because, news of sexual violence that is vulgar, is a form of exploitation of victims, as stated by informant #2 below:

"Yes, write it according to the fact that the facts are actually written but it doesn't have to be [...] exploitation and vulgarity. There is a condition, write the facts, the real facts but should not be vulgar or let alone exploit, it must be underlined by you. [...] you write but don't be vulgarised all have been exploiting [...], have you written, even mentioning the genitals don't let us misplace it, it's not like that, so if my writing is for sensations it won't be." (Interviewed with Sonya, May 15, 2019)

*Harian Kompas* does not highlight the background that is considered to justify cases of sexual violence but rather raises the issue of women who are still not protected and the government has not acted enough in this regard. *Harian Kompas* also confirmed in its news that no one deserves to be sexually assaulted, as reported by informant #1 below:



"Well we're not going to move in that realm, we're the ones who explain the position that whatever the background is not [...] then justifying it like that, well that's what we [...] raised, [...] or [...] for example cases, there are still some that are still unprotected, there are still those who are lacking here, there are escapes maybe here for example..." (Interviewed with Yovita, May 9, 2019)

As a result, *Harian Kompas* highlights in presenting news of sexual violence as a heavy violation of human rights (HAM) because the perpetrator tortures the physical and psychological victims. For *Harian Kompas*, journalists must convey the rights that have been deprived of victims of sexual violence, such as the following statements of informant #1 and informant #2:

"With [...] explains when people become victims, [...] rights [...] are violated, then what effect it will have on the victim in the future. It's taking away, it's depriving the victim of the future, that's it. We peel it out of it." (Interviewed with Yovita, May 9, 2019)

"...sexual violence, when you are a victim of rape [...] many people are violated, you committed psychic and physical torture, it was a violation of human rights [...], rape. You have no idea how many women are silent, even when they want to speak up. You don't cover very well... Human rights violations are indeed severe." (Interviewed with Sonya, May 15, 2019)

Furthermore, *Harian Kompas* claims that not all truths can be published. One of these truths is the truth that is considered to have the potential to harm the victim, such as the chronology of the events they witnessed. However, *Harian Kompas* journalists must still be aware of the entire true incident, then filter the facts that can be published based on the victim's agreement. This is done so that news written by journalists can contain a stronger message about the urgency of sexual violence. Informant #3 added that the facts obtained by journalists must also be checked and re-checked again, in accordance with the Code of Journalistic Ethics. Here's a quote from Informant #2:

"That's why if I were that someone, I'd try my hardest to get information from the victim, but I definitely have an agreement with her about which story I can take, but the actual facts I'll get, and usually 'I don't need this one' I won't publish, but I need to know the real facts. For example, if you tell the story, 'Mba Sonya, I experienced this,' but I said it when there's a touching part, for example, do not tell, only Mba Sonya knows..." (Interviewed with Sonya, May 15, 2019)

The coverage of sexual violence cases in *Harian Kompas* does not only report based on 5W1H elements (*what, where, who, when, why, and how*). Regarding cases of gender violence, *Harian Kompas* added elements aimed at questioning the government's actions to fix or overcome the case, such as the following statement of informant #2:

"Yes. So it's not our 5W1H anymore, we [...] don't stop at 5W1H but *so what* and *what next?* What's next with this case? So why is the question *so what* is important, people [...] there have been events, facts about the events, why did it happen *so what*, what about this news? Yes, that's where the gender perspective is." (Interviewed with Sonya, May 15, 2019)



The 'so what and what next' element is also capable of criticizing a court decision if the victim has not received justice. This can be seen in the following news clippings:

JAMBI, KOMPAS — Kasus yang menimpa WA (15), anak perempuan korban pemerkosaan di Kabupaten Batanghari, Jambi, yang divonis 6 bulan penjara atas dakwaan aborsi, dinilai penuh kekecewaan. WA yang merupakan korban pemerkosaan justru menjadi terdakwa. Negara kini dituntut mengembalikan hak WA yang menjadi korban pemerkosaan agar mendapatkan perlindungan hukum.

Sejumlah kekecewaan itu di antaranya korban tidak mendapatkan bantuan hukum selama masa penyidikan hingga menjelang dimulainya persidangan. Kehadiran penasihat hukum baru ada pada hari pertama sidang pembacaan dakwaan di Pengadilan Negeri Muara Bulian. "Ini berarti ada cacat hukum dalam penanganan kasus ini," kata peneliti hukum Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (ICJR), Maidina Rahmawati, Kamis (9/8/2018).

Berdasarkan Pasal 40 Undang-Undang Nomor 11 Tahun 2012 tentang Sistem Peradilan Pidana Anak disebutkan bahwa pejabat yang melakukan penangkapan dan penahanan wajib memberikan informasi mengenai hak atas bantuan hukum kepada tersangka. Menurut dia, itu tidak dilakukan penegak hukum yang menangani kasus tersebut.

Sebagaimana diketahui, WA adalah korban pemerkosaan aborsi yang kandungannya, AR (17), di Kabupaten Batanghari, Jambi. Ia mengalami ancaman kekerasan oleh AR hingga pemerkosaan itu berlangsung

Maidina mengemukakan dalam persidangan, WA juga tidak diberi kesempatan untuk menyampaikan pembelaan. Dalam jadwal persidangan, vonis langsung ditetapkan majelis hakim satu hari setelah pembacaan tuntutan. Padahal, sesuai aturan, terdakwa berhak mengajukan pembelaan.

Penasihat hukum dalam hal ini juga wajib menjalankan tugasnya untuk kepentingan membela terdakwa. Itu mengacu Pasal 14 pada undang-undang tadi, yang menyebut soal jaminan minimal terdakwa membela diri secara langsung atau melalui pembela. Dalam hal ini, pihaknya mendapati adanya indikasi bantuan hukum tidak efektif dan tidak kredibel.

Timnya juga mendapati korban ditahan melebihi masa tahanan yang diatur hukum. Sesuai aturan, masa penahanan penyidikan, penuntutan, dan pemeriksaan persidangan yang diatur adalah maksimal 15 hari, 10 hari, dan 25 hari. Faktanya, WA ditahan sampai 19 hari.

"Terdapat 4 hari masa penahanan yang melebihi masa penahanan maksimal menurut Sistem Peradilan Pidana Anak," katanya. Sesuai aturan, jika penahanan diketahui melebihi masa yang diatur, anak harus dikeluarkan demi hukum.

Picture 3: Harian Kompas News 'Janggal Anak Korban Pemerkosaan Divonis Bersalah Karena Aborsi'  
Sumber: (Tambunan, 2018)

Based on the picture above, you can see a news clipping entitled 'Awkward Child Rape Victims Convicted of Abortion', this news is about a child rape case in Jambi, the victim, and perpetrator were minors. WA, who was raped many times by her biological sister, was shackled to a 6-month sentence for having an abortion. Regarding this case, Kompas Daily raised the point of the legal process's obstacles, for example, the legal defense did not receive legal assistance and was not given the opportunity to present a defense. *Harian Kompas* analyzes this issue sharply and presents facts, for example, laws that are not in accordance with the judge's decision. This means that Kompas Daily does not only protect the judge's decision in court but also adds an element of 'so what' to the decision.

In this case, *Harian Kompas* did not quote the police BAP repeatedly and did not make it a single piece of information. However, the police BAP was the initial information that led journalists to cover cases of sexual violence directly on victims. This is because, journalists of *Harian Kompas* consider the psychological condition of the victim when filling out the BAP, as stated by informant #2 below:

"Bap is not the only source of information for the chronology, yes we went back to the victim, the person who experienced it, because again my question was, when the victim came to BAP, what was Tita's condition? Her condition was really she was ready, or when she came she was under psychic pressure so that then she didn't concentrate on providing information, it was from the side of the victim who didn't experience it themselves..." (Interviewed with Sonya, May 15, 2019)

In addition to the police BAP, news sources of sexual assault cases that should not be immediately cited are information that comes from social media. For *Harian Kompas*, information from social media is only preliminary information and is not used as a news source. This is because the information from social media is not yet known for its credibility.

*Harian Kompas* always seeks victims as the main resource person in reporting cases of sexual violence, but *Harian Kompas* does not force victims to be interviewed if they do not want to be. *Harian Kompas* looked for other alternatives by interviewing speakers who had credibility values about the incident, such as the victim's family, the victim's companion, Komnas Perempuan if the victim is an adult, the Indonesian Child Protection Commission if the victim is a child, the Ministry of Women's Empowerment, supervisors, researchers, LSM that engaged in gender and psychologists. As informant #2 states the following:

"But do you stop hearing them? No, I'm going to find a psychologist, a child psychologist whom I know well, not a half psychologist, but they already got this capacity, I'm going to look for that psychologist. Then I will look for the Ministry of Women's Empowerment which deals specifically with that matter, sexual violence. So [...] not just *taking*, or then I will take the perspective of lecturers, observers, [...] that I will take them from [...] from the presence of researchers at LIPI." (Interviewed with Sonya, May 15, 2019)

If, during the interview process, the victim or survivor as a source agrees to have his identity published, *Harian Kompas* will take special precautions. *Harian Kompas* can mention the identity of the source if the victim is already a survivor who is struggling to help the victims get justice. However, if the case is still pending in court and no justice has been served, *Harian Kompas* does not publish the victim's identity or photo, even if the victim agrees. Here are the statements of informant #1 and informant #2:

"... the case is over, she's a survivor, then she's struggling to help [...] victims, so that [...] get justice all the way, we can write [...] with her consent, but if not, well no. There are still those who do not want to be addressed by name, so I still [...] choose anyway, if there is a danger." (Interviewed with Yovita, May 9, 2019)

Both Victims and survivors must be protected from societal shaming caused by patriarchal beliefs. According to informants #3 and #4, the media should shape public opinion in favor of the victim and erodes the patriarchal culture, because patriarchal culture is considered to hinder the victim's legal process.

Based on this, *Harian Kompas* constructs public opinion, leading to public opinion that sexual violence is an emergency situation that must be voiced rather than hidden. Unreported cases of sexual violence, especially those that occur in the area of incest, are considered to be able to harm victims, both women and men. This is because the perpetrator has not been arrested and is still free to commit crimes, as informant #2 states below:

"Yes, that's the case, it's our job to open people's eyes and minds to the fact that sexual violence is a very [...] important issue, which is why I said earlier that [...] because patriarchy people think, sexual violence is a private territory 'ahh don't open it up', even if the father is the perpetrator, don't, and now that sexual

violence has entered the territory of incest and all kinds of things, we can no longer be silent, violence against children..." (Interviewed with Sonya, May 15, 2019)

Furthermore, *Harian Kompas* formed public opinion so that the public was aware of having an obligation to protect victims by providing support, instead of giving negative stereotypes and stigmas to victims. Therefore, *Harian Kompas* reported that no one wants to be a victim of sexual violence and victims can rise up and be empowered again with the support of the community.

In addition, *Harian Kompas* leads public opinion to be more careful about cases of sexual violence. This is because cases of sexual violence can occur in all environments even in their own homes, and the perpetrator of sexual violence can be the closest person to the victim. Therefore, *Harian Kompas* also led public opinion that cases of sexual violence are a shared responsibility, both the media, the government, and the public.

## 2. Gender Sensitive Journalism Practices in *Harian Kompas* Editor

*Harian Kompas* provides victims of sexual violence with protection and justice. This is considered to give the victim a sense of comfort to speak out about the events they experienced. This is supported by informant #3's statement saying that the media should facilitate a survivor or victim who wants to present their cases. According to informant #3 the media does not have the authority to make survivors speak out but has an obligation to accommodate survivors to speak out through the news. Here's informant #3's statement:

"I don't think the media has the ability to empower survivors of sexual assault to speak out and rise above their circumstances. But the media can facilitate if a survivor dares to publicly convey the events that happened to them. The thing that the media accommodates is being able to put its position as a report on the public." (Interviewed with Endah, May 24, 2019)

*Harian Kompas* constantly portrays its media and journalists as activists fighting for victim justice. Because *Harian Kompas* sees a lot of legal proceedings for sexual violence that do not lead to the justice of the victim, in this case *Harian Kompas* criticizes the judge who handled the case. According to informant #1:

"... justice for the victim, we see that when there is a free verdict, it is not just the judge that is but justice for the victim that must actually be fought for, that is." (Interviewed with Yovita, May 9, 2019)

*Harian Kompas* has its own considerations. Based on informant #2's statement that journalists with a victim perspective are not just reporting the incident. This is supported by informant #5's statement saying that apart from being a whistleblower of events, journalists should have a sense of being activists who advocate the urgency of sexual violence and justice for victims. Here's an excerpt from informant #2 and informant #5:

"Yes, if we just become whistleblowers we can citizen *journalism*, the same as the people who write it, *sosmed*... But journalism with a gender perspective is not [...] equipped even though we don't be whistleblowers if we become whistleblowers, it becomes like this. Then you have to write a gender

perspective, what the message is, you can't be a whistleblower. That a journalist does have to report an event, yes but how about reporting it is not [...] black and white, it's reporting, well, that's it." (Interviewed with Sonya, May 15, 2019)

"Yes, they are not only a whistleblower, but they also, as far as I can tell, a *campaigner*... It is true that journalist activists with a *sense of activism* should be present in any case..." (Interviewed with Ryan, May 16, 2019)

As a result, in order to fight for victims, every journalist in the media must be aware of gender perspectives. Gender reporting is dominated by female journalists in *Harian Kompas*, but there are a few male journalists who are sensitive to gender reporting. Informants #1 and #2 stated that if journalists lack gender awareness or sensitivity, they may present news that is harmful to victims. This makes it easy for journalists to include victim stereotypes and judgments in their reporting, even if the journalist does not intend to do so. The followings are the statements of informants #1 and #2:

"... journalists have to know how gender sensitive it is... sometimes we don't mean by that but [...] what you write is different..." (Interviewed with Yovita, May 9, 2019)

"... if we don't have a gender perspective and so is the victim, I'll immediately stereotype 'well deserve to be raped like this. I've been eating it for sure, but if in my head there's you need to have a gender *mindset* and you have to know that the victim is the victim, maybe it's just like that which really [...] I don't think there's a victim who's throwing themselves in a bad thing." (Interviewed with Sonya, May 15, 2019)

The gender awareness that *Harian Kompas* applies to its journalists is considered to be able to avoid biased reporting and violating the rights of survivors or victims. In addition, journalists are not easily influenced by some groups that tend to stigmatize victims, such as informant #2's statement below:

"Your unbiased reporting. So, for example, when someone comes, an extreme group says, don't let yourself get carried away because you don't have a handle, but if you have, hold it..." (Interviewed with Sonya, May 15, 2019)

In addition to developing the ability to report gender sensitivity individually, media editors also have an obligation to develop gender knowledge in their journalists. Regarding this, *Harian Kompas* pays serious attention to the development of the capabilities of its journalists. Prospective journalists must attend one year of training before becoming journalists at *Harian Kompas*. During the training, journalists are given intensive journalistic materials. Furthermore, there is always a competency test for journalists who want to advance, as stated by informant #2:

"And when Kompas journalist was in his early days, he was already [...] his apprenticeship received the materials that were covered. Because, in order to become a Kompas journalist, you must participate in an internship for one year, one year of education, before graduating to be a journalist, so you are already in [...] different from other media, which may not have that training, well, that education..." (Interviewed with Sonya, May 15, 2019)

"We have competencies, there is a competency exam. Every time we want to level up, the competence of intern reporters, novice journalists, intermediate [...] reporters, main reporters, that's already what level it is. He has a competency exam." (Interviewed with Sonya, May 15, 2019)

However, *Harian Kompas* does not specifically address knowledge development or gender-sensitive education. *Harian Kompas* frequently invites experts to share gender-sensitive knowledge with *Harian Kompas* journalists. Furthermore, the senior of *Harian Kompas* who studies gender issues directly guides their juniors by holding regular classes. Here are the statements of informant #1 and informant #2:

"... there is nothing in particular, only that we have ever invited experts to talk about gender, like that, or sometimes from our *chats*, meetings discussed that the use of the word that should be this way, it can be like this." (Interviewed with Yovita, May 9, 2019)

The editor-in-chief also has an important role to play in instilling gender sensitivity in the media she leads. The editor-in-chief (Pimred) of *Harian Kompas* is currently a woman who studies gender studies, she is also very influential in reporting gender violence in *Harian Kompas*. This is due to the fact that Pimred *Harian Kompas* directly monitors and provides input on news from a gender perspective. Furthermore, the founder of *Harian Kompas* has always urged his journalists to defend the papas, small communities that must be heard.

The results of this study show that the mainstream media that is *Harian Kompas* does not show exploiting women for media purposes. It is known that in reporting cases of sexual violence, *Harian Kompas* applies the victim's perspective by trying to distance women victims of sexual violence from stereotypes and negative stigmas of readers.

*Harian Kompas* also portrays victims as people who must be protected and heard in order to obtain justice. Therefore, in its news, *Harian Kompas* highlighted sexual violence as a case of human rights violations that need to be addressed immediately. This is consistent with the motto of *Harian Kompas* 'Mandate of people's Conscience' which means to speak for the people by preaching the truth based on humanity.

Based on this, *Harian Kompas* is not only a whistleblower of sexual violence events but is involved in advocating the case. Who see the media from a gender perspective has another task besides providing information, namely giving a voice to parties who have been silent (Maryani & Adiprasetyo, 2017).

Previous studies, showed that advocative journalism was able to uncover the voices of victims of sexual violence who had not previously had the opportunity to speak out and were treated unfairly by the media, for example exploiting victims and their stories. So, advocacy journalism employs the victim's point of view by delving into the victim's thoughts and feelings. As a result, from the beginning of the collection to the spread of the news is carried out based on partiality to the victim (Rakhmawati, 2015).

Reporting on cases of sexual violence based on the application of gender-sensitive journalism as media advocacy in *Harian Kompas* found that *Harian Kompas* was not only a whistleblower of the event, but also participated in the struggle with victims and survivors to get justice. This condition was stated by Sarwono that the media that apply journalism from a gender perspective are used as activists who fight for justice and gender equality.

This means that it can be seen that journalists have a role as activists or partisans of marginalized groups, in this case, victims of sexual violence in society, so that the results of coverage are critical, emancipatory, and also social empowerment (Sarwono, 2013).

Therefore, the application of the concept of gender-sensitive journalism does not have to be entangled with neutrality (Maryani & Adiprasetyo, 2017). It is also stated by Waisbord that objectivity is not used in advocacy journalism because justice is the priority of reporting advocacy journalism (Waisbord, 2009). It is known that the concept of gender-sensitive journalism and advocacy journalism have the same common thread, namely prioritizing justice for people who do not get a platform to speak out, with news that overrides objectivity, such as on the issue of sexual violence in *Harian Kompas*. *Harian Kompas* considers that objective news is not strong enough to help women be on the positive side, such as being free from stereotypes, negative stigma, and judgment and helping women get justice.

The subjective reporting in question does not just include the gender-sensitive opinions of journalists, opinions must be data-based by analyzing the facts. Then based on these facts journalists can write opinions either about the legal process or construct public opinion in favor of the victim. So it can be seen that the fact of objectivity is stronger when mixed with the minds of journalists, using a reporting method that focuses on a certain perspective, namely humanitarian issues (Kurnia, 2005). Research demonstrates that journalists should not refrain from advocating for problems when there is widespread consensus that journalists can collaborate with advocates to harmonize opinion writing and use their physicality to pressure the government. Furthermore, journalists not only respond to the consensus but can actively build consensus (Wade, 2011).

Therefore, the coverage of the issue of gender violence in *Harian Kompas* not only covers based on the 5W1H element (*what, where, why, when, who, and how*) but also adds elements that question the legal process and the government's attitude in handling a sexual violence case, namely the *what next* and *so what* elements. As a result, *Harian Kompas* continues to encourage the government to take a stand, such as against unfair court decisions in legal proceedings. As well as collaborating with organizations that focus on gender issues together, they urge the government to make policies that favor victims, one of which is the ratification of the Draft Law on the Elimination of Sexual Violence (RUU PKS). This is because, through media advocacy journalism, organizations can use the media to raise awareness, influence public opinion, and generate public debate, ensuring that policies on the issue remain on the media's agenda (Downman & Ubayasiri, 2017).

MD (1998) argued that journalists must be sensitive to the objects of reality that serve as the raw material for reporting on gender issues in society. So, it is necessary to raise gender awareness among journalists at all levels of the editorial line, both collectively and individually (MD, 1998). *Harian Kompas* as a large media that has been established for 5 decades, has its own guidebook in addition to the Code of Journalistic Ethics which is a guideline for *Harian Kompas* journalists. In addition, several attempts were made to build awareness at every level of the editor. Regularly, *Harian Kompas* invites gender experts to provide gender perspective material in reporting. Senior journalists who study gender issues, such as Maria Harti Ningsih, also regularly monitor and provide journalists from *Harian Kompas* direct in reporting on gender issues, including the issue of sexual violence.

Even in this case, Ninuk Mardiana Pambudy, the editor-in-chief of *Harian Kompas*, who has a background in women's education and gender, has a major influence on *Harian*

*Kompas* policy on reporting gender violence. This supports MD's (1998) concept of gender-sensitive journalism, which states that an editor in gender chief's sensitivity plays a big role in a news story about gender issues because the editor in chief has direct control over the process of reporting gender sensitive sexual violence cases (MD, 1998).

*Harian Kompas* really maintains the quality of its journalists, before becoming a journalist for *Harian Kompas*, prospective journalists must attend journalism education for one year. In fact, after becoming a journalist for *Harian Kompas*, test the competence to level up. There are 3 stages of *Harian Kompas* journalist level, namely intern journalists, novice journalists, associate journalists and main journalists. This is an effort to develop the professional ability of journalists in seeing and writing gender problems (MD, 1998).

Furthermore, *Harian Kompas* places a high value on diction in its news writing. Before the news is published to the audience. A journalist created news article and submitted to the editor, then checked by a language aligner and edited again by the editor. This is done to avoid biased diction in the news. Research by Rakhmawati (2015) and Maryani & Adiprasetyo (2017) looked at the news texts of sexual violence cases showing gender bias, especially in women. Thus, the media needs to review to ensure that the diction used in writing the news has been on the side of the victim. Sexist language based on patriarchal thinking is often used by journalists in writing rape stories (Maryani & Adiprasetyo, 2017; Rakhmawati, 2015).

There are also rape incidents that are commonly used by journalists, such as the words 'dianui', 'dikumpuli', 'ditipu luar dalam', 'digarap', 'digilir'. Such diction can distract the reader from the fact that rape is a heinous and serious problem (MD, 1998). This is not found in this study. *Harian Kompas* only uses the diction of 'raped' to write news of rape cases. This is due to the fact that the diction of 'raped' has explained the coercion of sexual intercourse itself. This is also to avoid sensational news, which follows the male perspective.

According to MD (1998) biased diction creates an image in the reader's mind, causing cases of sexual violence to be perceived as simple events. However, the application of gender sensitive journalism to the reporting of sexual violence automatically leads to the diction of journalists with a gender perspective so that the diction of journalists when writing news is a diction that favors the victim and puts the victim on the positive side (MD, 1998).

## CONCLUSION

*Harian Kompas* can help victims of sexual violence achieve their rights to protection and justice by providing gender-sensitive news. Gender-sensitive journalism in *Harian Kompas* focuses on the victim's point of view, with nonsensational news coverage and nonbiased diction. Such reporting can keep women away from patriarchal views that trigger stereotypes, negative stigma, and judgment.

*Harian Kompas* promotes victim protection by intervening and escorting legal processes in order to achieve justice. Advocacy journalism can place the media as a comfortable and safe space for victims to voice the events they experienced.

Based on the power of the media as a shaper of public opinion, which can ultimately shape the policy agenda, the coverage of *Harian Kompas* is advocative. This is accomplished by performing coverage that includes the 5W1H elements (*what, why, where, when, who, and how*) as well as one special element, namely '*what next*'. This means that *Harian*



*Kompas* is not only a whistleblower for the judge's decision regarding the incident, but also monitors the legal process in order to encourage policymakers to find solutions.

Reporting with a victim perspective can be achieved with subjective reporting. Because for *Harian Kompas*, objectivity is not able to advocate for the rights of victims. Therefore, as a herd of public opinion, journalists' knowledge of sensitivity in reporting is very important. So that journalists can produce news that is subjective but based on strong factual data.

As a result, *Harian Kompas* strives to develop journalists who are capable of reporting on gender issues by holding gender education at all levels of editors on a regular basis. In addition, senior journalists and editors-in-chief who are deeply involved in gender issues, also play an important role to raise gender awareness in the newsroom.

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