



## Handling Cases of Violence Against Women during the Covid-19 Pandemic

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### ABSTRACT

The COVID-19 pandemic that has hit the entire world has not yet ended. This forces the Indonesian government to continue to issue various policies to reduce the number of victims infected with this virus. One of the government's policies is the recommendation to work, worship, and study from home, which is followed by the establishment of Community Activity Restrictions (PPKM). This policy has caused many new problems, such as violence against women. This study aims to analyze the efforts made by Belu Regency P2TP2A in handling cases of violence that occurred and analyze the supporting and inhibiting factors faced by Belu Regency P2TP2A. The research method used is a qualitative method with a descriptive approach. The data sources used are Primary Data and Secondary Data. While the data collection techniques using Library Techniques and Field Research were conducted through interviews, book references, and agency documents. Research shows that: (a) P2TP2A is still not optimal in handling violence, this can be seen from the number of violence that has increased significantly against women. (b) P2TP2A cooperates with relevant stakeholders in efforts to handle cases of violence during the pandemic. The handling is carried out through the protocol for handling cases of violence during the pandemic set by the government. (c) The supporting factors are the participation of all parties and the commitment of the local government, while the inhibiting factors are the limited quality of human resources, the commitment to services for women victims of violence.

### INTRODUCTION

The violence that often occurs against women is a problem that must be resolved. The increase in cases of violence experienced by women from year to year is increasingly worrying (Hidayah et al., 2021). This happens because there is a feeling of superiority caused by thoughts and traditions and social norms that are still strong in society, that there is great power between one gender to another so that women are demeaned and placed under other genders. Whereas women can play a role, lead, and even make a change (Herawati et al., 2021). This phenomenon causes the gap.

Thomas Santoso (2002:11) suggests that violence against women is caused by elements of different gender relations. This happens because of a very complex social phenomenon. Meanwhile, according to Jack D. Douglas & Frances C. Washler (2002:9), violence is an activity carried out both individually and in groups. Collective or group violence is carried out by a large group of people. Violence is used as a term that describes the frontal behavior of the perpetrator, either openly or defending by using force aimed at the victim. Violence is a form of action, either directly or indirectly giving a negative impact both psychologically, physically, psychologically, and emotionally to the target who is the target violence. Galtung (2003:69) says violence can occur if humans are influenced in such a way by actual physical and mental realizations that are below potential realization. Violence has a major impact on health, mental, moral, and society, especially women. Violence brings great suffering to victims both psychologically and physically. According to CEDAW, violence against women is a form of action that causes prolonged suffering mentally, physically, and psychologically, including threats, and indiscriminate deprivation of rights both in society and in private life. Violence

against women occurs almost all over the world. Countries around the world are working with the United Nations to fight against violence against women. In the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) the issue of violence against women is raised, where the goal that must be achieved by 2030 is to minimize the level of violence against women and create gender equality. WHO data (2018) shows that (35%) of women in all parts of the world are victims of violence (Sultan & Rizky, 2020).

Various acts of violence experienced by women emerged as a result of different roles. Violence can be in the form of physical or non-physical violence. One type of violence that often occurs comes from the perception of gender originating from power. Perpetrators of violence against women are more personal, such as violence that occurs in a household, violence in the community, or violence within the state (Utami, 2016). Therefore, it is very important to protect women to create superior and strong Indonesian women. Because a healthy generation comes from a mother who is physically and mentally healthy (Shufri, 2009). This requires collaboration and active involvement from various stakeholders including the community to be able to overcome and minimize violence against women. Institutionally, the state must be present and play a role in protecting women. There are 5 (five) priority issues of President Joko Widodo, namely: Women need to be empowered with an entrepreneurial spirit, there needs to be an increase in the roles and responsibilities of mothers in terms of child care, there is a need for policies to reduce violence against women and children, prevent child marriage, and reduce violence against women. child labor (Deputy for the Protection of Women's Rights., 2020).

The government issued policies and recommendations to work, worship from home, and study from home, which was

then followed by the establishment of Community Activity Restrictions (PPKM) (Hasudungan & Amalina, 2020). This policy is due to an increase in cases of people infected with the Covid-19 virus. The policy taken by the government is to limit community activities, especially to reduce crowds in public places. It is hoped that this policy will reduce the rate of transmission of Covid-19 cases. However, what has happened is that it creates new problems, such as increasing cases of violence. Women are the group most vulnerable to violence. This condition is further exacerbated by the instability of economic conditions, where there is unemployment caused by Termination of Employment (PHK) carried out by companies affected by Covid-19 (Lubis et al., 2020). The loss of livelihoods caused by the wave of layoffs that occurred greatly affected the lives of every family. The burden on the family is increasing, causing stress and depression which in turn triggers domestic violence and other forms of violence that befell women during this pandemic. The increasing household needs coupled with the large workload in the household causes the burden of responsibilities that must be borne by women, which must take care of household matters, accompany children in school assignments, and even help families in finding additional family income, for the sake of survival. family. This heavy burden is a trigger factor for conflict in the household which then leads to violence (Cahayanengdia & Sugito, 2020). Violence experienced by women has an impact on reducing women's fighting power both physically and mentally in living household life (Syamsudin et al., 2020).

Gender-Based Violence is an act of violence that contains a gender factor. During this pandemic, the issue of gender-based violence experienced a drastic increase (Zulfiani & Kondorura, 2018). This is very worrying because victims must get help, while other parties (officers) must take appropriate steps in dealing with victims so they don't contract the coronavirus. With these conditions, the services provided by P2TP2A officers cannot run properly, so victims experience obstacles in accessing maximum services. In the case of women's violence that occurred in Belu Regency, there were many cases of violence caused by serious obstacles experienced by victims in terms of justice, so many victims did not report cases of violence that happened to them because they were afraid to bear the shame (Radhitya & Nurwati, 2020).

The basis for the establishment of an Integrated Service Center for Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (P2TP2A) is the Minister of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Regulation Number 5 of 2010 concerning guidelines for the formation and development of P2TP2A (Irawati & Ayunita, 2015). This regulation stipulates that all districts/cities must form a P2TP2A institution. P2TP2A also functions to provide free services for victims of violence in terms of medical, counseling, psychological, legal assistance, and social protection. The establishment of P2TP2A as a non-governmental institution is a serious response from the government in providing services to victims of violence so that victims can be quickly helped and handled properly (Widiastuti, 2008). Considering that violence is a fundamental problem that affects the quality and future of women's lives in society, nation, and state. For this reason, the issue of violence against women must be handled comprehensively with a victim perspective approach. The Integrated Service Center for Women and Children Empowerment (P2TP2A) Belu Regency is a technical unit

whose implementation plays an important role in efforts to handle acts of violence against women and children in Belu Regency, P2TP2A itself was formed on 17 December 2017. However, in its development, it cannot carry out its role optimally. P2TP2A has problems that become obstacles in the process of handling victims of violence, namely in terms of coordination between law enforcement and other agencies so that they cannot work optimally in handling violence against victims (Hartati, 2013). This is influenced by the lack of support from local governments regarding variations in regional regulations, funding for facilities and infrastructure as well as limited human resources who are competent in handling violence. This study tries to go deeper and see from the other side compared to previous studies (Widiastuti, 2008).

Violence against women continues to increase from year to year, especially during this pandemic the number of violence against women tends to increase sharply. This can be seen in table 1 data presented, namely data on violence against women in 2019 before the pandemic and data on violence against women in 2020 after the Covid-19 pandemic.

Table 1. Violence Against Women Rates in 2019 and 2020

Case Type	the year 2019	2020
Psychological Domestic Violence	4	4
Physical Domestic Violence	1	8
Abandonment of Domestic Violence	2	3
Persecution	4	3
Broken promise	5	0
beating	0	0
Adultery	1	3
Psychic	3	2
Affair	3	2
Etc	3	1
Rape	0	1
Trafficking	0	1
obscurity	0	2
Theft	0	4
Immoral/Harassment	0	4
Attempted Rape	0	0
Total	26	38

Source: P2TP2A and the Belu Regency Office of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection in 2020.

As seen in the table above, there was a significant increase in violence in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic there are 38 cases of violence that occurred throughout 2020. And the highest case in 2020 was the case of physical domestic violence, which was 8 cases. This is a case that was reported and recorded at the Belu District Office of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (DP3A) and Belu District P2TP2A. The increasing number of reports of violence against women indicates that the public is increasingly aware of reporting violence that occurs. On the other hand, it raises concern because although many policies have been made by the government, they have not been able to provide a deterrent effect on perpetrators of violence.

## METHOD

This study uses descriptive qualitative research methods, namely an explanation of certain characteristics that aim to

describe the characteristics of the research object, analyze, and explain how and why it happened (Sugiyono, 2013).

The data analysis technique uses data from field research (Field Research), the data is collected directly from the field. Primary data were obtained through observation, interviews, and document and documentation studies. And also, researchers use secondary data, namely data collected through library studies, analysis of agency document journals, and documentation. The data collection techniques in this research are Interview, Documentation, and Observation. The researcher conducted interviews with the Head of P2TP2A in Belu Regency, as well as the P2TP2A apparatus in charge of serving directly cases of violence that occurred to women victims in Belu Regency. The research location is at the Central Office for the Integrated Services for the Empowerment of Women and Children (P2TP2A) Belu Regency. researchers went to the field to see firsthand the process of handling violence carried out by P2TP2A staff. The focus of this research is to analyze the handling efforts/actions by P2TP2A in Belu Regency in handling cases that occurred in women victims of violence during the pandemic, as well as analyzing supporting factors and factors that became obstacles in handling cases of women victims of violence in Belu Regency, during the time of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The data analysis technique used by the researcher in this research is using the interactive model of Miles and Huberman, namely: (1) Collecting field data, (2) reducing primary data and secondary data obtained in the field (3) Sorting the data that has been obtained. and sorted and separated according to the group, (4) Taking the essence of the research. then used as conclusions and final results of the study.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The increasing cases of Covid 19 have had a broad impact on the community in almost all regions in Indonesia, especially in the Java Island region as an area of population concentration in Indonesia. This also happened in Tanjungpinang where until mid-2021 the increase in the positive number of covid in Tanjungpinang increased to 300 percent (Puspita, 2021). Reflecting on these conditions, social care actions emerged from the community in the form of distributing masks, spraying disinfectants, also distributing necessities, and even establishing public kitchens to relieve the affected people and reduce the level of distribution.

Protection for women who experience violence is divided into two parts, namely: Prevention and Handling. Prevention is carried out when there is a potential for violence. Preventive actions are carried out through various government policies, providing advocacy services, holding outreach activities, and law enforcement efforts against perpetrators of violence. While handling actions are carried out when the case has occurred, the handling of services for cases of violence that occurs refers to the Minimum Service Standards (SPM) that have been set by the government. To ensure the availability of services for victims of violence against women that occurred during this pandemic, the Ministry in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) issued a protocol for handling cases of violence against women during the Covid-19 pandemic. This is a national reference for all institutions that provide services to victims, at the provincial and district levels in handling cases of gender-based violence that occurred during the pandemic, by taking

into account the patterns and principles, and provisions of safety security for victims of violence and officers who provide services.

The following is an excerpt of the author's interview with the Secretary of the Belu Regency Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Service, Karmel Betang, SIP., whom the author met in his office on Thursday, October 28, 2021. It is said that from the data available at the Belu Regency Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Service and P2TP2A throughout 2019 there were 26 cases of violence against women. Meanwhile, there were 31 cases of violence against girls, where the most dominating case being rape, with 12 cases. This figure, admitted by the Secretary of the Service, only decreased by six cases from 2019, namely 37 cases. The data from reports from the authorities are owned by the Belu Regency DP3A Service, and it is not yet known how many cases were not reported. This is because cases of violence against women, both domestic violence (KDRT) and violence against children, are often not resolved by the authorities, due to the attitude of the victims and their families who seem closed. "In 2018, violence against women and children accounted for 82.5% of cases of violence. Meanwhile, in 2019, there was a decrease of 54.5% in the number of cases. This means that based on the presentation of existing cases, in 2019 compared to 2018, there was a decrease," explained the Secretary of the Service. Although there has been a decline, the Secretary of the Service said the figure is still in the high category. "I have told my friends at P2TP2A to work together to handle cases not only of violence that has occurred, but prevention steps are more important so that violence does not occur and that requires cooperation from all parties," said Karmel. "To make the prevention and handling of cases against women and children more effective, his party is currently developing a network of cooperation at the village level. Currently, 15 villages in the Belu Regency already have Community-Based Services (LBK) to prevent and handle cases of violence against women and children. P2TP2A will conduct studies in other villages to develop an advocacy network.

The Secretary of the Service admitted that the high number of cases of violence against women and children in the Belu Regency was caused by low education and lack of information from the Belu Regency P3A Office, Belu Regency P2TP2A, and all relevant stakeholders. In addition, cultural factors are also the main cause, where women who are victims usually feel ashamed and feel inferior to speaking. The biggest challenge in solving violence against women and children in Belu Regency. there are five factors, namely; 1). Often cases of violence have been handled and transferred to the Police, in the course of the case, the victim and his family withdraw the report. 2). The difficulty of evidence to ensnare the perpetrators, especially in cases of broken promises and cases of pregnancy out of wedlock which requires DNA testing. 3). In many cases of domestic violence that occur after further investigation, these couples are not legally married and are officially registered as husband and wife, making it difficult and hindering the process of resolving cases. 4). There are still many victims who do not have a Resident Identity (KTP). 5). The lack of facilities and infrastructure for handling cases of violence. The Secretary of the Service added that his party will continue to work optimally by utilizing the existing budget allocation. Although it is recognized that the available budget is still very limited. One way to overcome budget constraints is to coordinate with the

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*P2TP2A's efforts in handling cases of violence against women who are victims during the pandemic are using the protocol for violence against victims*

Efforts to deal with victims of violence against women carried out by P2TP2A Belu Regency are coordinating with relevant stakeholders, namely health centers, clinics, hospitals, counselors, psychologists, courts, and the police as well as companion cadres in providing information to victims. Other activities carried out in handling victims of violence are assisting victims starting from counseling, together with the victim making a choice whether the victim will make peace or not, then conveying information about file management, for example to the religious court, or file reports to the police station, and escorting psychologists and religious leaders. for spiritual guidance. The companion can also act as a mediator who mediates both parties. Mediation is carried out with an

approach so that mutual agreement is obtained. After the conflict is over, the facilitator also monitors by communicating with the victim to find out the condition of the victim after the case is over. Based on the services provided by the Belu Regency P2TP2A, it can be seen that the efforts that have been made by the Belu Regency P2TP2A are divided into 3 (three) parts, namely:

*Prevention*

Prevention efforts carried out by P2TP2A Belu Regency are socialization activities. The socialization was held at the village and sub-district levels to provide information and increase public awareness so that they dare to report violence to obtain their rights.

*Handling effort*

The handling effort is carried out in the event of violence. Handling efforts are made when there is a report of violence that comes in, the officer will conduct an assessment of the victim and find out what the victim's needs are, including accompanying the victim to follow spiritual services, medical and psychological services in the form of counseling according to the needs of the victim.

*Healing/recovery Effort*

This effort is carried out because violence is intended to restore the victim's condition physically, mentally, and psychologically so that the victim recovers immediately from the trauma he experienced so that he can return to carrying out activities properly and can be accepted again in the middle Publica's usual in continuing his life.

In addition to the complaint service for violence against women owned by the Belu Regency P2TP2A, since the pandemic period, there has been a 'pick up the ball' strategy. This strategy is an encouragement to P2TP2A to be more proactive in finding and dealing with violence that occurs against women. Handling services for women victims of violence during this pandemic are not running as usual because P2TP2A in dealing with victims uses service protocols following SOPs and rules that have been set by the government. The provisions and rules can be used as guidelines for P2TP2A to provide services. The types of service protocols for women victims of violence during this pandemic are:

1. Complaints of cases of violence against women are carried out through face-to-face and online media. P2TP2A Belu Regency makes official announcements through publications, providing information and education about services that can be known and accessed by all citizens during the pandemic, namely by using online media (telephone, WhatsApp, E-mail, SMS, and letters). After that, the officer will follow up on the report by contacting the reporter to proceed with the initial assessment. Meanwhile, the P2TP2A face-to-face service protocol in Belu Regency will provide services for certain cases that require fast service due to physical and psychological conditions or the risk or psychological and traumatic impact faced by the victim. Face-to-face services are carried out according to strict health protocols.
2. Providing mentoring services to women victims of violence which include: outreach, picking up or dropping off clients, and assisting cases. Everything is done according to health

protocols. 3. Providing referrals to health services for women victims of violence. P2TP2A Belu Regency continues to prioritize online services in anticipation of preventing the possibility of transmission of the Covid-19 virus, but if needed face-to-face services will still be provided by observing SOPs.

3. Protocol for referral of women victims of violence to available safe houses or shelters.
4. Provision of early-stage psychosocial services for women who are victims of violence.
5. Providing legal consulting services to women victims of violence.
6. Providing assistance services in dealing with the legal process for women victims of violence.
7. Protocol for the rescue service for women victims of violence.

#### *Stakeholder Involvement in Handling Cases of Violence against Women in Belu District*

P2TP2A Belu Regency to handle women victims, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders. This collaborative effort is well established with various other institutions, namely the Belu Regency Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Service (DP3A), Child and Women Observing Institutions, Health Centers / Clinics / Hospitals, Legal Aid and Advocates, Police, Village Community Empowerment Agency Offices, (BPM) Belu Regency, and all community components. The involvement between P2TP2A is quite well established between related stakeholders by dividing tasks and authorities according to the priority needs of victims of violence. However, the obstacle in resolving the case still takes a long time because it requires coordination with these parties.

#### *Supporting Factors in P2TP2A Services for Handling women victims of violence in Belu Regency*

In providing services for cases of violence against women in Belu Regency, P2TP2A Belu Regency is supported by several supporting factors. These supporting factors are known from the results of interviews with officers/manager P2TP2A Belu Regency, namely:

##### *Supporting Factors*

Support from the government in the form of the availability of supporting funds to finance activities and operations sourced from the Belu Regency Regional Budget II and assistance for a mobile car unit (Molin) sourced from dana APBN Assistance and support from the government, although not maximized, have become the motivation and impetus for the Belu Regency P2TP2A officers in carrying out existing work programs. Availability of adequate office facilities although still full of limitations. P2TP2A itself does not have its own office. Currently, he is still riding in a room at the Belu Regency Office of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection. However, it is enough to help P2TP2A Belu Regency in carrying out its duties and functions properly. In providing services, P2TP2A Belu Regency is supported by officers who have a strong passion and commitment to dealing with all kinds of cases of violence against women and children. P2TP2A Belu Regency has trained assistants and is an officer of Belu Regency P2TP2A itself.

##### *Obstacle factor*

Limited quality of human resources in P2TP2A Belu Regency. Currently, P2TP2A Belu Regency does not yet have a permanent staff of Psychologists and Counselors, this is an obstacle in handling any cases of violence that occur. P2TP2A cooperates with several psychologists in solving existing cases. With the increase in cases of violence, however, human resources are limited so P2TP2A must determine which cases should be handled first. Not all of the existing P2TP2A officers in the Belu Regency have adequate competence.

The minimum budget for assistance. The lack of budget for P2TP2A is an obstacle to the optimal handling of victims of violence. The available budget is very limited so the supporting cadres experience obstacles in carrying out their duties in handling victims in the field.

Inadequate facilities and infrastructure. P2TP2A currently does not have its own office. Still joining in one of the office rooms of the Office of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (DP3A) in Belu Regency, the narrow room with the lack of available facilities and infrastructure, resulting in the activities of handling victims not being able to run optimally.

Lack of awareness and community participation. Public awareness to report cases of violence that occurred is still very low. Many people are still afraid to report cases of violence that have occurred because they are afraid and ashamed that if cases are reported, everyone will know about it. Cases of violence are still considered a disgrace that must be hidden because the perpetrators of violence are still family members. So that causes conflicts that occur cannot be resolved quickly and easily.

#### **CONCLUSION**

P2TP2A Belu Regency to handle cases of violence against women has not run optimally. The reason is the limited human resources in the P2TP2A Belu district, both in terms of quality and competence. In addition, the limited operational budget and the available infrastructure and facilities are still very limited. The quality of P2TP2A services in the Belu Regency is not optimal and maximal. This can be seen from the high amount of violence against women. One of the reasons is that many people do not know about the existence of P2TP2A institutions and there are still victims who are reluctant to report cases of violence that have happened to them because they are ashamed and there are still kinship factors with the perpetrators of violence.

In providing services for handling acts of violence against women in Belu Regency, P2TP2A provides counselors and psychologists to provide counseling to women victims of violence. Especially for victims of violence who suffered physical injuries, P2TP2A partners with Public health centers or hospitals in providing medical services needed by victims in the form of a post-mortem to be used as evidence in resolving cases of violence in the police. Advocacy assistance in the form of providing legal assistance and protection services for women victims of violence in the form of defense and legal assistance during the trial process. During this process, the assistant staff assists the victim, in this case, assisting the victim starting from the investigation process to the trial process. Accompanying staff also accompanies victims through coordination with safe house officers to ensure that the condition of the safe house is appropriate and safe for the victim to temporarily occupy without worrying about her safety. During this pandemic, the

service process for victims of violence is carried out under the protocol SOPs that have been set by the government.

The supporting factor for P2TP2A's efforts in handling acts of violence against women is the government's support in formulating policies and budgeting sourced from APBD II funds in Belu Regency. In carrying out its duties, Belu Regency P2TP2A is equipped with 1 (one) mobile car unit, assistance from the central government, and financial assistance for services for women who are victims of violence. The inhibiting factors for P2TP2A's efforts in handling act of violence against women are limited human resources, limited budget, inadequate facilities, and infrastructure, and low awareness and participation of the community in efforts to handle women victims.

Based on the conclusions, the researchers provide suggestions and input to the P2TP2A institution in Belu Regency so that the handling of cases of violence against women can run optimally, so they must pay attention to several things, namely: (1) Proposing an increase in the operational budget and the provision of adequate infrastructure and supporting infrastructure to the community. local government in this case through the Belu Regency DP3A Office, so that services can run optimally and optimally. (2) Optimizing the quality and quantity of human resources in P2TP2A Belu Regency. (3) Provision of complete, accurate, and easy about cases of violence against women to the general public so that they can find out how and efforts to prevent acts of violence against women and how to report if they experience or see acts of violence that occur in the neighborhood. This can be done through outreach, advocacy, and information dissemination through pamphlets, brochures, television media, print media, social media, and so on.

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