CATCALLING AS A REPRESENTATION OF THE STRONG PATRIARCHAL CULTURE IN THE PERSPECTIVE OF FEMINISM

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ABSTRACT

Patriarchy culture is formed indirectly through a concept of a man as a head of family or the holder of the highest position. It leads to viewpoint that catcalling is assumed normally. Although catcalling seems like a compliment, but it is quite different with the exact compliment. The basic difference from them both is a compliment comes to sincerely from its giver, meanwhile catcalling is aimed to harass indirectly to women. This study aims to give an information and solution about the catcalling expansion in public areas especially by women community. The use of method to finish this study is qualitative design from literature sources for the last four years about problems of catcalling. The result of this study is giving information about catcalling by providing data and looking for solution related to catcalling phenomenon.

Keywords: catcalling, harassment, patriarchy, qualitative design, women

INTRODUCTION

In catcalling, there is a form of communication in which the perpetrator gives verbal expressions to the victim, for example through whistling and also comments about their body shape by attacking the victim's sexual attributes. However, this is a problem because there is an ambiguity in the meaning that exists in society about catcalling as a joke or sexual harassment, especially against women. (1). Catcalling is a form of verbal comments or whistles directed at a particular person to create attention and lead to sexual characteristics that have the potential to cause sexual harassment. catcalls involve (unwanted) verbal and non-verbal communication among strangers, typically from men to women, often about the recipient's
Motivations for catcalls range from boredom and male-bonding to desire to anger or humiliate women. While some interpret catcalls as flattering, and while on the surface these speech acts may indeed appear as compliments, many recipients see them as an invasion of privacy or as a type of sexual harassment (19). *Catcalling* usually occurs in public areas and is done to strangers.

If identified further, types of verbal messages from *catcalling* perpetrator are: 1) In the form of tone, namely sound, speech, whistling and can also be the sound of a kiss from afar. 2) Comments, can be in the form of comments on the body or sentences aimed at harassing. 3) Eyes, which can make people who are seen to feel intimidated, namely from head to toe (1). What is more detailed includes sexual harassment which can be in the form of: Jokes, flirting with the opposite sex or the same kind which asks about sexual matters in a conversation that does not specifically discuss it, then whistles with sexual orientation, then asks or tells people others for sexual desires or activities and other people are uncomfortable, while criticizing or commenting on the physical form which leads to parts of sexuality, for example the hips, buttocks and around the genitals (2).

Sexual harassment illustrates one of the problems that often occurs which results in the sense of security of everyone being threatened, even though through the Indonesian Constitution, namely the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia (UUD NRI 1945) contained in article 28G paragraphs (1 & 2) has been regulated regarding every person has the right to obtain protection for himself, his family, his honor, dignity, and property and has the right to feel safe and things that protect from fear due to threats to either do or not do something that embodies human rights. Not only that, everyone also has the right to obtain freedom from torture or treatment that despises human dignity (3).

This is one of the problems of women's rights in Indonesia, *catcalling* is considered a compliment about the beauty of the physical form so that it requires recognition or expression from many people about it. The identity of women in the family and society is not independent because it is constructed by the identity of her husband. The rights inherent in every woman are tied to her status as who and what, men as the head of the family have the top position of each family member. (4)

The patriarchal culture that is formed indirectly through the concept of men as the head of the family or the top position holder raises the view that verbal abuse or *catcalling* is
considered normal and once again it is emphasized that *catcalling* is not a compliment. Praise in the Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI) is a sincere statement of the goodness of something, not creating unrest for that person. Unlike the case with verbal harassment, which is still from the same source, harassment means process, how to harass and verbally means verbally or not in writing. The fundamental difference between the two is that praise comes from the person who gives it, whereas verbal abuse is aimed at indirectly harassing the person who is being subjected to it. There needs to be an understanding of gender to understand gender roles so as to minimize the occurrence of sexual harassment, namely *catcalling* (5).

From the description above, if the verbal harassment case is related to law and human rights, *catcalling* includes deviations from article 28G paragraphs (1 and 2) where the victim *catcalling* loses her sense of security so that the *catcalling* has violated the victim's dignity and it is a violation of law and human rights in accordance the legal basis of the 1945 Constitution.

*Catcalling* behavior is very detrimental to victims, especially their disorders severe psychological, namely the threat of self-discomfort. Also, increasingly discrimination often haunt them. As a rule of law and tolerance for human rights, therefore verbal harassment should find a solution so that it is not continuously neglected so that the stigma of *catcalling* that are considered normal can be changed and it is very threatening to the victim.

**METHOD**

This study is using qualitative research methods. Qualitative research methods are often called naturalistic research methods because the research is carried out in natural conditions (natural setting); it is also called the ethnographic method, because initially this method was more widely used for research in the field of cultural anthropology; it is also called a qualitative method, because the data collected and the analysis is more of a qualitative nature (6).

The literature sources used are from various journals in the 2017-2020 and the only one article in 2007. The literature we use uses "catcalling", "verbal abuse", "patriarchy" as keywords.

Considering that the researcher uses a qualitative approach, a questionnaire through Google Form is an option used as an effective medium in collecting data. There are several
close-ended questions that can help in quickly analyzing respondents' responses regarding catcalling. As a form of appreciation to the respondents, the data collected will be kept confidential by not sharing it with parties who are not involved.

Subjects used in this study were women in the age range 17-30 years. This is motivated by the prevalence of catcalling cases that are often experienced by women so that it becomes the main focus of this study.

RESULTS

The year the journal articles used were from 2007 as many as 1 article, (5.5%), 2017 as many as 3 articles (16.7%), 2018 as many as 4 articles (22.2%), 2019 as many as 6 articles (33.3%), 2020 as many as 3 articles (16.7%), and 1 article that did not specify the year of publication.

It can be concluded based on Table 1 that the purpose of the literature is to identify and understand motives catcalling experienced by women based on several criteria (demography, anxiety, and motives).

Based on Table 1, the literature source comes from Google Scholar as many as 8 articles (44.4%), ELSEVIER as many as 2 articles (11.1%), SAGE as many as 2 articles (11.1%), the rest comes from Andharupa, Bina Mulia Hukum, CrossMark, Pubmed, Taylor and Francis Group, and Lowa State University Repository, each with 1 article (5.5%).

In Table 2, it can be concluded that almost all women have experienced catcalling both in public places and on the streets. This can affect the level of anxiety they experience when they are outside the home.

Based on Table 2, it can be concluded that there is a need for an educational movement regarding catcalling which can be realized through campaigns, social media, and posters displayed in public places.

DISCUSSION

Online Survey

Based on a questionnaire on Google Form distributed through social media and WhatsApp groups in March 2021, 51 respondents showed various kinds of responses.
The questionnaire uses two parts, namely personal identity and online survey. Here the details.

Table 1. Personal Identity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Domicile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student College</td>
<td>17 - 18 years</td>
<td>Sidoarjo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worker</td>
<td>19 - 20 years</td>
<td>Surabaya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td>21 - 26 years</td>
<td>Makassar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based on the data above, the researcher is committed to maintaining the identity of 51 respondents by allowing them to give their initials only. This aims to make respondents feel safe regarding the information provided in this study. Then, if it is calculated based on the age category, the respondents are at the age of 17 as many as 1 respondent (2%), 18 years as many as 13 respondents (25.5%), 19 years old as many as 21 respondents (41.2%), 20 years as many as 8 respondents (15.7%), 21 years as many as 7 respondents (13.7%), and 26 years as many as 1 respondent (2%).

Based on the data above, the researcher is committed to maintaining the identity of 51 respondents by allowing them to give their initials only. This aims to make respondents feel safe regarding the information provided in this study. Then, if it is calculated based on the age category, the respondents are at the age of 17 as many as 1 respondent (2%), 18 years as many as 13 respondents (25.5%), 19 years old as many as 21 respondents (41.2%), 20 years as many as 8 respondents (15.7%), 21 years as many as 7 respondents (13.7%), and 26 years as many as 1 respondent (2%).

Based on the data listed, respondents came from students as many as 45 people (88.2%), workers as many as 4 people (7.8%), and students as many as 2 people (3.9%). They were spread from various different areas, namely Sidoarjo as many as 15 people (29.41%), Surabaya as many as 10 people (19.6%), Makassar as many as 8 people (15.68%), Mojokerto as many as 3 people (5.88%), Bandung as many as 2 people (3.92 %), Rembang as many as 2 people (3.92%), Kediri as many as 1 person (1.96%), Pasuruan as many as 1 person (1.96%), Bekasi as many as 1 person (1.96%), Tuban as many as 1 person (1.96%), Lamongan as many as 1 person (1.96%), Gresik as much as 1 person (1.96%), Bojonegoro as much as 1 person (1.96%),
Malang as much as 1 person (1.96%), Cilacap as much as 1 person (1.96%), and only mentioned East Java Province as much 2 people (3.92%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey</th>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Tendency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Catcalling understanding</td>
<td>Yes 47</td>
<td>No 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catcalling experience</td>
<td>Yes 43</td>
<td>No 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underage catcalling</td>
<td>Yes 22</td>
<td>No 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The data says that as many as 47 out of 51 respondents (92.2%) already understand what catcalling is. This shows that the community already knows how the catcalling motives often occur. Meanwhile, as many as 4 other respondents (7.8%) still feel unfamiliar with the term of catcalling.

The data also states that as many as 43 respondents have been victims of catcalling either with verbal motives such as whistling, calling certain names with the aim of teasing, or even physically, such as rubbing against areas of the body. Generally, catcalling occurs because of an appearance that can invite views and seduction, but respondents said that there was no self-appearance that invites their temptation. Generally, catcalling occurs because of the deeply rooted patriarchal perspective that women are attractive and weak objects so that men are authoritarian subjects. This certainly creates a feeling of insecurity and traumatic experience when leave out home, especially among women.

In general, catcalling occurs among adults. But in reality, underage can also be victims of catcalling. This is evidenced by data showing that as many as 29 respondents (56.9%) had experienced catcalling when they were underage. Meanwhile, as many as 22 respondents (43.1%) did not experience it.

Based on the data obtained, 38 respondents (%) chose to ignore it. Furthermore, 3 respondents sometimes expressed their discomfort by resisting. Then, 3 other respondents chose completely to fight back. Meanwhile, 7 other respondents (%) n / a meant that they...
did not experience catcalling. With the silence of women, the patriarchal character will be even stronger. Women will feel afraid if they report it to the law because of their weak label, so many of them choose to remain silent and ignore it. In fact, in the RI Law NO. 39 of 1999 concerning Human Rights, every citizen has human rights guaranteed and protected by the state (3).

This is in line with the opinion that the silence of women has so far opened up gaps for men to continue to oppress. The injustice for women about how the public views their existence has led to various movements to defend women, one of which is through the feminism movement. In general, feminism arises due to the belief that women have been treated unfairly in society with the aim of prioritizing men's viewpoints and their various interests. Mini thighs are closely related to social movements and analysis tools. Both of these are classified as scientific study materials, one of which is sociology (7).

Although not all men agree with catcalling, if women choose to fight against men, what happens is that they will even continue to tease, especially when they gather together so that to attack and seduce a woman is not a difficult thing. This will further aggravate the situation if society is also not aware that catcalling behavior will have a major impact on the mental health of women.

Based on the data obtained, as many as 7 people (13.7%) had never experienced catcalling, 11 people (%) experienced catcalling 1-3 times, and as many as 33 people (56.9%) experienced catcalling with a tendency of more than 5 times in their lives.

According to the results of the Sexual Harassment Survey that occurred in public spaces, 64 percent of 38,766 women, 11 percent of 23,403 men, and 69 percent of the other 45 genders had experienced sexual harassment. Most of the victims admitted that they had experienced verbal abuse, with 60 percent commenting on their bodies, physical touching as much as 24 percent and visual gaze such as flirting as much as 15 percent. (1). Although the survey has been circulating, there are still many people who are not aware of it. It is caused by a gender stereotype that is formed which gives rise to the meaning of *catcalling* both as sexual harassment and as a joke. Sexual harassment of women also occurs through the mass media, namely the modem as the receiving and sending device to the telephone line at that time (8). Women get sexual harassment in more number and proportion than men (9). The patriarchal system causes radical feminism to be formed so that women's oppression
such as sexuality and gender systems occur. Cases of verbal abuse or commonly referred to as catcalling (1).

*Catcalling* is identified as the use of indecent words, verbal expressions as well as non-verbal expressions that can occur in public places. If verbal usually comes from whistles or comments on the appearance and expression of the non-verbal, namely glances or physical gestures that point to the object. The effect that occurs from *catcalling* is that a person's freedom to move will be limited and creates a fear of dominating the victim (1). *Catcalling* is behavior towards things with sexual tendencies including whistling, shouting or giving comments to someone in a public space (10).

**Catcalling Phenomenon**

*Catcalling* still occurs today due to the low understanding of catcalling and also due to the role of patriarchal culture which leads to gender injustice. Patriarchy means a system that has been inherited and continuously constructed in life and social structures in society. It should be understood that there are 3 forms of gender-based injustice, namely 1) gender expression, namely individuals in expressing themselves through attributes such as clothing, gestures, preferences and others. 2) gender identity, which is a form of one's appreciation of himself as a man or woman. 3) sexual orientation. In addition, patriarchal culture provides the view that the creation of conditions in which men are considered male when catcalling has made more and more harassment occur. However, if an understanding of the three forms of gender-based injustice is sought, it will minimize the occurrence of *catcalling* sexual harassment (5).

In general, *catcalling* happens in a public area which called as a street harassment. Street harassment is a component of sexual harassment, which is legally defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature (14). Street harassment isn’t a distinct, standalone problem. Rather, it’s an ugly side effect of the patriarchal, heteronormative society we continue to live and breathe (15). Similarly, Street harassment is a gender-based injustice experienced in public space (17). Street harassment stands apart from sexual harassment in the workplace because street harassment is usually done in the public area by a stranger. In addition, the general public has
normalized street harassment where some men perceive it as positive and complimentary. Yet, sexual harassment is perceived as socially unacceptable and illegal (18).

The problem with street harassment is that it can occur in broad daylight among crowds of people who standby, observe, and possibly relish the intent of the supposedly complimentary messages. Street harassment objectifies femininity and any non-normative expression of gender or sexuality. Further, street harassment trivializes the impact of the harassment on those targeted, and thus challenges the ability to legislate its injustice (20). Women, however, regularly experience street remarks as harmful and reject them by ignoring them. It is not the literal content of the words, which can be complimentary, or the surface acts, such as greeting, that lead women to ignore them. Rather, it is their violations of the interaction order, the ground rules of face-to-face interaction that moderate social and personal risk (16).

Figure 1. Catcalling backgrounds

Basically, catcalling occurs because it is motivated by a strong patriarchal culture in society. Patriarchal culture is a concept that views men as holders of the highest position compared to women. This can lead to gender inequality because the position of women does not get rights like men.
Gender inequality is also triggered by narrow thinking. This kind of mindset should no longer be maintained, given the sophistication of technology and information that can be easily accessed so that public education should improve. However, they still think that women are weak so that they are not worthy to be leaders because of their personalities that are not equivalent to men's. This phenomenon is also triggered by a lack of community literacy related to gender differences.

As a result, a feminist movement emerged. This movement is a pattern of refusal to men that women are also entitled to get what they get. They are also entitled to freely express their wishes and hopes to the public. Thus, patriarchal culture no longer considers women as objects, but also as subjects who also take part in leadership.

**Catcalling Case in Campus Area**

An example of a case that occurred in the campus environment, namely Gia - not a real name - Universitas Airlangga (Unair) students encountered verbal abuse in the canteen of the Faculty of Humanities (FIB) Unair. After experiencing this, she told about it on social media and she received various responses (11). Through Mercusuar Press page (21 February 2020), it was stated that as many as 21 reporters claimed that have experienced *catcalling* in the same place as Gia (12).

Based on this, we can see that it is important to understand human rights and the legal basis for acting as stipulated in Law no. 39 of 1999, namely article 1 paragraph (3) regarding forms of discrimination due to harassment or exclusion, either directly or indirectly based on gender differences, still occur. Even *catcalling* discriminates the victim indirectly and creates trauma to the victim's psychology which should not be done, especially within the scope of the institution. Ideally what happens is that campuses should be women-friendly places where everyone has the right to security. But what happened was the opposite, *catcalling* was considered a common thing.

**Facts of Catcalling Harassment**

The experience of catcalling became the key moment during which participants experienced themselves as feeling “different.” Catcalls were often experienced as men who
were strangers to volunteers yelling to/at them either from across the street, while passing, and in close proximity (21). In fact, women play variety of significant roles in our society from their birth till the end of life. Even after playing her all the roles and all the job timely in efficient manner in the modern society, she is weak because men are still strongest gender of the society (22)

*Catcalling* is an act of verbal abuse that is often experienced by women. Catcalling motives also vary, including containing, teasing, seducing, calling by certain designations, etc. However, catcalling is not a form of praise, but rather a pronouncement that aims to demean women. Generally, catcalling occurs in public areas and is carried out by groups of men. According to them, catcalling is considered a form of masculinity because the status as a man is considered higher than that of women. This will further enhance and strengthen the patriarchal culture in society. This is even more so when people don't care about the rampant catcalling in their environment.

According to the results, as many as 43 respondents have been victims of catcalling either with verbal motives such as whistling, calling certain names with the aim of teasing, or even physically. It means patriarchal culture still become the cause of *catcalling* to women. This behavior certainly makes women think that men are cruel and the existence of human rights for woman is nothing.

When women are victims of catcalling, it will have an impact on their mental health. Women will tend to be afraid and feel insecure whenever they are outside the house. Worries also often land on their heads considering that women are weak objects. Thus, a feminist movement that aims to reject and fight patriarchal culture emerged. The existence of the feminism movement can change the perspective of society that women are also human beings who have human rights and are protected by the state like men. As with other feminist campaigns on violence (and the various forms of categorising gender violence), the idea of speaking up, even with the necessary exposure of what was earlier felt as something to be ashamed of, of what was never mentioned before, is seen as potentially liberating and empowering (23). The feminism movement also spurs the spirit that is echoed by women. They have similar backgrounds and have been victims of catcalling, so the support given can have a good impact on each other.
To support the analysis in the discussion on the research results, there are discussions from several journals related to solutions to overcome *catcalling*. Using comic media can convey information to minimize verbal sexual harassment behavior in public places (9); Through the JAGOAN (*Jangan Godain di Jalan*) campaign in the form of writings, stickers, comics and social media, it becomes an arena for providing information to minimize the creation of *catcalling* (10); Using interesting, contrasting, and catchphrase phrases as well as jargon as the idea of participating in fighting sexual violence into news coverage (13).

**CONCLUSION**

*Catcalling* is a verbal harassment that has a negative impact on the victims. Judging from the psychological point of view of victims, they tend to be restless, affecting their emotions such as insecurity and fear when they are outside. The *catcalling* behavior such as jokes, criticisms or comments on body parts, whistles or words that lead to sexuality and make it uncomfortable is what causes victims to bully themselves psychologically. As for verbal harassment, *catcalling* must be minimized through education and efforts to inform the public about the dangers of *catcalling* for victims and society.

However, there is still a lot of sexual harassment that leads to verbal abuse such as *catcalling*. *Catcalling* is a form of verbal in the form of comments or whistles directed at a particular person to create attention but by paying particular attention to certain sexual characteristics which leads to sexual harassment. The solutions that can be done are through socialization to the public, the distribution of posters regarding *catcalling* and the massive resistance movement against *catcalling* both in the public environment or through social media. The movement is expected to participate in fighting sexual violence and minimize patriarchal culture.

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