
FACTORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WHEN MOVEMENT CONTROL ORDERS

Azura Binti Md Zahari, PM Dr Faizah Binti Abdul Ghani
Universiti Teknologi Malaysia
E-mail: azurazahari3@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Cases of domestic violence were increasing when the Movement Control Order was implemented in March 2020. This is becoming increasingly worrying and needs to be given attention by all parties. This is because domestic violence can affect family institutions in society. Domestic violence is one of the patterns of coercive behavior that can have a detrimental effect on the victim and cause severe physical and emotional injuries, such as trauma and suicide. Therefore, this article discusses the factors of domestic violence that can occur against women during the Movement Control Order. This study used a library research method that aimed to examine the factors faced by women during the period when the Movement Control Order was implemented. The result of this research concluded that violence against women needs to be given serious attention because women are an important asset to the state. Violence against women also needs to be addressed by identifying the causes of violence to prevent women from continuing to be victims of violence. Violence against women can cause physical injuries and health problems, as well as mental and emotional trauma that can lead to mental and emotional disorders.

KEYWORDS Domestic Violence, Impact of Violence, Movement Control Order, Violence Factor



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INTRODUCTION

Domestic violence experienced by women was on the rise during the Movement Control Order (PKP), which was enforced in March 2020 last year. Minister of Women, Family, and Community Development (KPWKM), Datuk Seri Rina Harun, stated that most of the cases were due to economic pressures and the stress of life, which led to some couples intending to injure their partners, especially women. The Royal Malaysian Police (PDRM)

Azura Binti Md Zahari, PM Dr Faizah Binti Abdul Ghani. (2021). Factors of Domestic Violence when Movement Control Orders. Journal Eduvest. 1(11): 1253-1257

How to cite:

E-ISSN: 2775-3727

Published by: <https://greenpublisher.id/>

also reported that, according to statistics, from January to December 2020, a total of 5,260 cases of domestic violence had been received. Meanwhile, in 2021, from January to April, a total of 902 cases of domestic violence were reported. These statistics show that the issue of domestic violence is very worrying, and this issue needs to be given attention by all parties. In addition, the statistics reported by the Organization of Sisters in Islam (SIS) on June 21, 2021, showed cases of domestic violence in 2020 at 23 percent, compared to 15 percent in 2019. According to SIS, among the forms of violence experienced were physical abuse (37 percent), psychological abuse (31 percent), social abuse (11 percent), financial abuse (16 percent), and sexual violence (5 percent). These statistics show that women are among the most vulnerable to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic when they face physical and emotional abuse caused by domestic conflict.

The Women's Aid Organization (WAO) explains that domestic violence is a form of violence or a form of behavior that is intended to intimidate couples who are in an intimate relationship. Domestic violence can result in physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, and economic abuse. The increase in cases during PKP needs to be brought to the attention of all parties because there are cases in which wives are abused to the point of death. According to the Women's Aid Organization's (WAO) Senior Advocacy Officer, Rusni Tajari, it clearly showed the adverse effects of domestic violence, which not only resulted in physical and mental injuries to the victims but could also result in death. Even worse, most of the violent acts were done by people who knew the victims, such as their spouses.

According to (Suhaili Sharil, 2020), (Suhaila Sharil, Fathillah, Niteh, Ahmad, & Basir, 2018), (Hamzah, 2015), (Shahril, 2019), and (Sofian & Azmawati, 2021) violence is equal to abuse committed in five forms, namely physical, psychological, emotional, social, sexual, and financial abuse. However, WAO statistics report that the category of physical and emotional violence often records the highest values compared to other categories. This is also supported by the findings of a study conducted by the Center for Women and Gender Research (KANITA) at Universiti Sains Malaysia, which also found that 5 percent of women have experienced physical violence while 7.8 percent have experienced emotional violence committed by their own partners. Meanwhile, the Women's Aid Organization's (WAO) Advocacy and Communication Officer, Tan Heang Lee, said that the data received from March 1 to March 17, 2020, showed that on a daily average, it received about 10.5 calls involving the issue of violence. This is clearly worrying because, at that time, the PKP made it more difficult for the victims to get help because they were not allowed to go out.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study used a library research method that aimed to examine the factors faced by women during the period when the Movement Control Order was implemented. This method is an effort made by the researcher to gather all the information that is appropriate and relevant to the problem or topic studied. Researchers made a search strategy to obtain literature review sources such as journals, articles, reports from newspapers, and electronic sources related to the purpose of identifying the causes and effects of domestic violence that occurred during the PKP period. Search and data collection for reference study information are published from the beginning of the first PKP in March 2020 to PKP 3.0 in 2021. The list of references related to the study was selected and reviewed to suit the study. Previous years' information on forms of violence, factors, and effects of violence is also explained. Several terms, including "domestic violence," "violence factor," "impact of violence," and "PKP," were used in the database search.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The increase in cases of domestic violence during the Movement Control Order (PKP) is becoming increasingly alarming. There are several factors that cause the occurrence of violence during PKP that have been identified as stress factors (Badar, 2011). According to the literature, stress is one of the factors that cause women to be abused by their partners during the period when the Movement Control Order was in effect (Sapkota, Bhattarai, Baral, & Pokharel, 2016). The increase in cases of violence during PKP is due to the abuser always being with the victim and spending a lot of time together, which increases the chances of conflict occurring. When there is a conflict to the point of violence during the PKP, the victim will be with the partner who committed the violence for a long time because it is difficult to get help due to movement restrictions.

Meanwhile, according to the Chairman of the Johor Women, Family, and Community Development Committee, Zaiton Ismail, a total of 12 cases of domestic violence have been reported in the state since the beginning of last year involving couples aged 25 and above (Thas & Sulathireh, 2010). Most of the cases were, however, withdrawn by the victims out of pity for the couple who would be subject to legal action. According to Jamil Osman (2013), among the factors in the case were the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and the implementation of the Movement Control Order (PKP), which pushed many people to experience stress.

In addition, the husband's hot temper is also a factor in the occurrence of domestic violence (Eriksen & Jensen, 2006) (Dissel & Ngubeni, 2003). This is because, based on the findings, the husband's hot-tempered attitude cannot be controlled, even if he spends a long period of time with his spouse during the period of Movement Control Order (PKP). The Sinar Harian review on June 15, 2021, also showed that a 27-year-old woman had been scolded, beaten, and locked up by her hot-tempered husband for not preparing breakfast. A husband's hot temper will be easier to develop if the victim provokes the partner.

Meanwhile, according to JKM 2017 statistics, financial problems are the third most commonly reported factor, accounting for 84 cases. This is stated in a study conducted by Khan et al (2012) who found that financial problems in the family are also one of the factors contributing to the occurrence of violence. It is also related to the factor of job loss in the epidemic season because the COVID-19 epidemic has crippled the economic income of the people, especially for those who are self-employed and whose income depends on daily wages (Shukor, Hashim, & Khan, 2012). Such things worry those who depend on work to support themselves and their families..

In addition, drug addiction was also identified as one of the major contributing factors to domestic violence (Mohsin et al., 2016; Basarudin, 2016). This is because during the PKP, they may face difficulties obtaining supplies of drugs, which leads to symptoms of addiction as a result of not getting supplies, such as becoming irritable and prone to committing violence. A husband was sentenced to nine months in jail by the Bahau Magistrate's Court after injuring his wife on May 1 because he is said to be angry when his wife does not give him money to buy drugs.

CONCLUSION

The COVID-19 pandemic that started to hit the world, including its spread in Malaysia from the end of December 2019 until now, will continue to be remembered. COVID-19 not only exposes us to new norms such as social incarceration, segregation, quarantine, and compliance with various operating standards (SOPs), but unknowingly it also manages to create internal stress that triggers domestic violence. Violence against women needs to be given serious attention because women are an important asset to the state. Violence against women also needs to be addressed by identifying the causes of violence to prevent women from continuing to be victims of violence. Violence against women can cause physical injuries and health problems, as well as mental and emotional trauma that can lead to mental and emotional disorders.

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