 FACTORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WHEN MOVEMENT CONTROL ORDERS

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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 that can 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 aims to examine the factors faced by women during the period of the Movement Control Order is 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. The effects of violence on women such as suffering from physical injuries and health problems as well as trauma due to mental and emotional disorders.

KEYWORDS

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

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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 stress of life which led to some couples intended to injure their partners, especially women. The Royal Malaysian Police (PDRM) also reported that according statistics during 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 2019 at 15 percent. According to SIS, among the forms of violence experienced were physical abuse (37 per cent), psychological abuse (31 per cent), social abuse (11 per cent), financial abuse (16 per cent) and sexual violence (5 per cent). 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 or psychological and economic abuse. The increase in cases during PKP needs to be given the attention of all parties because there are cases in which wives being abused to the point of death. According to the Women's Aid Organization (WAO) Senior Advocacy Officer, Rusni Tajari, said it clearly showed the adverse effects of domestic violence not only resulting in physical and mental injuries to the victims but could also result in death. More regrettably, most of the cases of violence were committed by known individuals and even spouses to the victims.

According to (Suhaili Sharil, 2020), (Suhaila Sharil, Fathillah, Nitech, 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 are often recorded 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), Universiti Sains Malaysia 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 (WAO) Advocacy and Communication Officer, Tan Heang Lee, said that the data received from 1 to 17 March 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 aims to examine the factors faced by women during the period of the Movement Control Order is implemented. This method is an effort made by the researcher to gather all the information or 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 of reference study information is 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. Information such as forms of violence, factors and effects of violence from previous years are also explained. Several terms had been used in the database search such as ‘domestic violence’, ‘violence factor’, ‘impact of violence’ and ‘PKP’ are the search keywords used.

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). Based on the findings of the literature, it is found that the stress factor is one of the factors that cause women to be abused by their partners during the period of the Movement Control Order was implemented (Sapkota, Bhattarai, Baral, & Pokharel, 2016). The increase in cases of violence during PKP is because the abuser is always with the victim as well as spending a lot of time together to be the chances for conflict to occur to be higher. When there is a conflict to the point of violence during the PKP, the victim would 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 were 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 was due to 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 can not be controlled even if a long period of time with the spouse during the period of Movement Control Order (PKP). The Sinar Harian review on 15 June 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. Husband's hot temper will be easier to happen if the victim provokes the partner.

Meanwhile based on the statistics of JKM 2017 financial problems are the third highest factor reported which recorded a value of 84 cases. This is stated in a study conducted by (Khan, Shukor, Hashim, & Yusof, 2012) stated that financial problems in the family is also one of the contributing factors 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 their 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 PKP, they may face difficulties in obtaining supplies of drugs, which leads to
symptoms of addiction as a result of not getting supplies, 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 to trigger 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. The effects of violence on women such as suffering from physical injuries and health problems as well as trauma due to mental and emotional disorders.

REFERENCES


