

Sexual violence among females who reports to Sanglah Hospital from January 2014 until October 2015

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ABSTRACT

Background: Sexual violence usually involving sexual intercourse or other forms of sexual penetration perpetrated against a person without that person's consent. Available data suggest that in some countries nearly one in four women may experience sexual violence by an intimate partner, and up to one-third of adolescent girls report their first sexual experience as being forced.

Methods: This descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted at Forensic Department of Sanglah General Hospital, Denpasar, Bali between July 2015 – November 2015. A total of 44 women who came to Sanglah General Hospital with complain of sexual violence between January 2014 – October 2015 were involved in the study.

Results: The highest incidence of sexual violence in women who reports to Sanglah General Hospital are within the age range of 20-29 years old (36%). The majority of sexual violence in this study were committed by someone known by the victim, namely victim's boyfriend (41%), followed by their husband (18%), ex-husband (5%) and second husband (5%). Most of the victims did not resist during the sexual violence (80%) and had history of previous sexual relationship (86%).

Conclusion: Signs of vaginal penetration were found in all of the victims. Most of the victims reported painful intercourse as a result of the violence, and presented with stable emotional state.

Keywords: Sexual violence, women

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ABSTRAK

Latar Belakang: Kekerasan seksual umumnya melibatkan hubungan seksual atau bentuk lain penetrasi seksual terhadap seseorang tanpa seijin orang tersebut. Data yang tersedia menunjukkan bahwa pada beberapa negara, sekitar satu dari empat wanita mengalami kekerasan seksual oleh orang dekatnya, dan sekitar sepertiga perempuan dewasa muda menyatakan adanya pemaksaan pada pengalaman seksual pertamanya.

Metode: Penelitian deskriptif potong lintang ini dilaksanakan pada Bagian Forensik RSUP Sanglah, Denpasar, Bali, antara Juli 2015 – November 2015. Sebanyak 44 orang wanita yang datang ke RSUP Sanglah dengan keluhan mengalami kekerasan seksual antara Januari 2014 – Oktober 2015 dilibatkan dalam penelitian ini.

Hasil: Kejadian kekerasan seksual paling tinggi pada kelompok umur 20-29 tahun (36%). Sebagian besar kekerasan seksual dilakukan oleh pelaku yang dikenal oleh korban, yaitu pacar (41%), suami (18%), mantan suami (5%) dan suami kedua (5%). Sebagian besar korban tidak menolak ketika kekerasan seksual terjadi (80%), dan memiliki riwayat berhubungan seksual sebelumnya (86%).

Simpulan: Tanda penetrasi vagina didapatkan pada seluruh korban. Sebagian besar korban mengalami nyeri saat berhubungan seksual sebagai akibat kekerasan tersebut, dan datang dengan kondisi emosional yang stabil.

Kata Kunci: Kekerasan seksual, wanita

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INTRODUCTION

Sexual violence usually involving sexual intercourse or other forms of sexual penetration perpetrated against a person without that person's consent. The act may be carried out by physical force, coercion, abuse of authority or against a person who is incapable of valid consent, such as one who is

unconscious, incapacitated, or below the legal age of consent.¹

In a national survey conducted in the United States of America, 14.8% of women over 17 years of age reported having been raped in their lifetime. Available data suggest that in some countries nearly

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one in four women may experience sexual violence by an intimate partner, and up to one-third of adolescent girls report their first sexual experience as being forced.¹

We believe that sexual violence cannot be separated from other forms of systemic violence including racism, sexism, homophobia, and classism. We use the word survivor rather than victim to honor the strength and courage of women and men who survive sexual, physical and emotional violence. Just as every survivor's experience is different, the healing process is different for everyone. We believe in the right of survivors to define for themselves their experiences and needs. We are committed to providing a safe and supportive place for survivors of sexual violence and information about sexual violence to the community.

According to the Connecticut State Penal Code, Section 53a, a person is guilty of first degree sexual assault when he or she²

1. "Compels another person to engage in sexual intercourse by the use of force against such other person or a third person, or by the threat of use of force against such other person or against a third person which reasonably causes such person to fear physical injury to such person or a third person."
2. "Engages in sexual intercourse with another person and such other person is under thirteen years of age and the actor is more than two years older than such person."
3. "Engages in sexual intercourse with another person and such other person is mentally incapacitated to the extent that such other person is unable to consent to such sexual intercourse."

Sexual violence and the definition of rape may vary from state to state. For example, rape is defined in the California Penal Code, Section 261 as forced sexual intercourse against a person's will. The District of Columbia defines rape as vaginal penetration by a penis using force or threat of force, or when the woman is physically or mentally unable to give her consent.³

METHODS

Descriptive cross-sectional approach was used in this study. The research was conducted at Forensic Department of Sanglah General Hospital, Denpasar, Bali between July 2015 – November 2015.

Using non-random consecutive sampling method, 44 women who came to Sanglah General Hospital with complain of sexual violence between January 2014 – October 2015 were involved in the study. Patients with incomplete data were excluded from the study. Consent for the study were received from the Ethics Committee of Sanglah General Hospital.

Data regarding the age of victim, offender relationship with victim, victim's denial response, sexual intercourse findings, last intercourse relationship, effects of physical and psychological of the victim were obtained from the log book in Forensic Department of Sanglah General Hospital. Obtained data were shown in form of descriptive statistics.

RESULTS

Based on the obtained data, there are as many as 44 women with complain of sexual violence who came to Sanglah General Hospital between January 2014 to October 2015. Several characteristics including age of victim, offender relationship with victim, victim's denial response, sexual intercourse findings, last intercourse relationship, effects of physical and psychological of the victim were obtained.

Age

Most of the victims of sexual violence in this study were aged between 20 to 29 years old (36%, 16 cases of total 44 cases). Fourteen cases (32%) were aged 30 to 39 years old, 5 cases (11%) were aged 40 to 49 years old, and 4 cases (9%) were aged 10-19 years old. There are five cases in which the age of the victim was unknown, due to incomplete record.

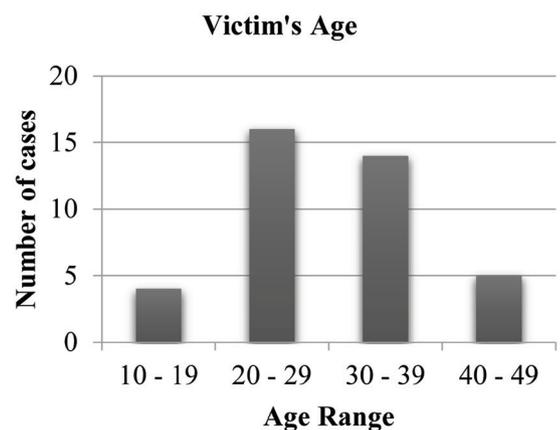


Figure 1 Number of cases of sexual violence by the age range of victims involved

Perpetrators

The relationship of the perpetrators to the victims were categorized as boyfriend, husband, ex-husband, second husband, workmate, and anonymous.

Most sexual assault to the victims in this study were done by their boyfriends are 18 out of 44 cases (41%). The perpetrators were unknown to the victim in 14 (32%) of cases. There are 5 cases (11%) in which the perpetrators were the husband of the victim. Ex-husband and second husband were the perpetrators in 2 cases (5%) each. There are 2 cases of unknown perpetrators because the victim did not mention it during the interview.

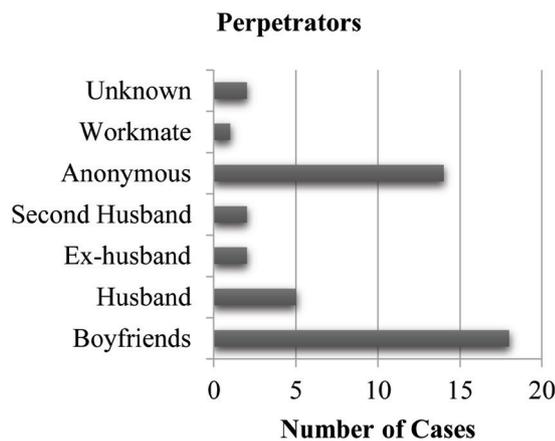


Figure 2 Number of cases of sexual violence by the perpetrator's relationship with the victim

Resistance Response by The Victim

In the majority of the cases in this study, the victim did not resist sexual violence. There are 35 cases (80%), in which the victims did not resist or respond during the incidence of sexual violence. Resistance to the perpetrators were reported in nine cases (20%). This can be caused by several factors, such as the helplessness of the victim due to alcohol consumption or sedative administration by the perpetrators, and the victim's fear that they will be harmed by the perpetrator. In some cases,

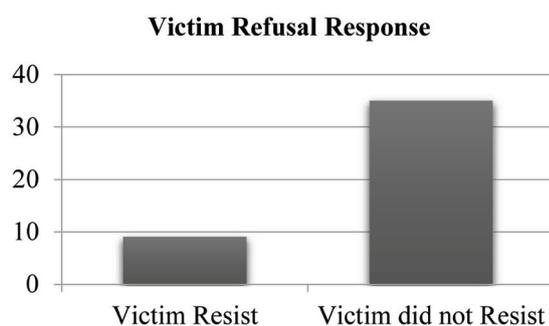


Figure 3 Number of cases of sexual violence by the victim refusal response

when the victim resist, the perpetrators threaten the victim using sharp or blunt weapon.

Intercourse History

History of past sexual relationship were present in 38 out of 44 cases (86%). Past sexual relationship includes relationship with the victim's boyfriend, fiancée, and husband. There are 6 cases (14%) in which the victim did not have history of sexual intercourse before.

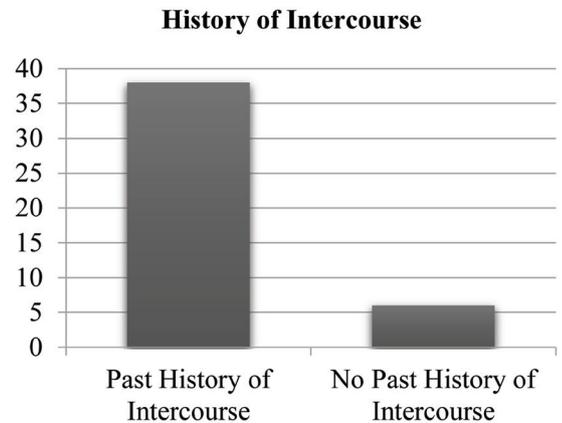


Figure 4 Number of cases of sexual violence based on past history of intercourse

Signs of Sexual Intercourse

Evidence of sexual intercourse includes signs of penetration and ejaculation. Signs of vaginal penetration such as tear in hymen, tenderness or bleeding were present in all 44 cases. Sign of oral penetration were present in 3 cases (6,8%) and sign of finger penetration were present in 4 cases (9,1%). Signs of vaginal ejaculation, such as presence of sperm cells or prostate-specific antigen in vaginal smear, were present in 9 cases (20,4%), and signs of oral ejaculation were present in 1 case (2,3%).

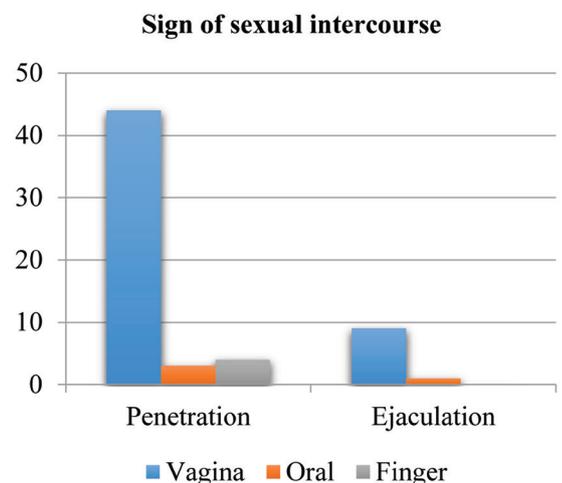


Figure 5 Number of cases of sexual violence by sign of sexual intercourse

Effects of Sexual Violence

There are several physical and psychological consequence of sexual violence to the victim including pregnancy, injury in the genital area or other body parts, attempted suicide and mental disorders.

Pain around the genital area was reported in 5 cases (34%) of sexual violence. Injury at body parts such as bruises, abrasion, and suction bruises were present in 4 cases (7%) of victims. Most of the injury to the body was caused by the victim resisting during the attempt of sexual violence. Pregnancy caused by vaginal ejaculation by the perpetrator was reported in 5 cases (11%). Genital trauma such as bruises and abrasions in the genital area was reported in 10 cases (23%).

Physical Effects of Sexual Violence.

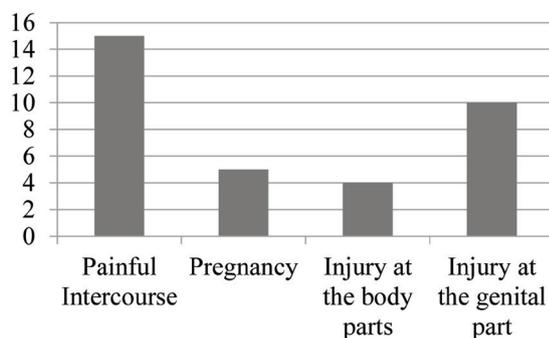


Figure 6 The number of cases of sexual violence causing physical effects to the victim

Psychological Effect of Sexual Violence

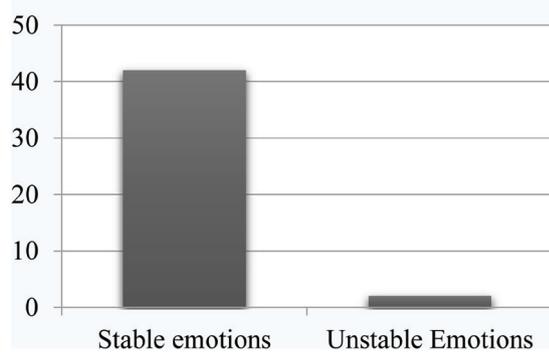


Figure 7 The number of cases of sexual violence causing psychological effects to the victim

Most of sexual violence victims (95%) presented with stable emotional state upon hospital admission after the incident. Meanwhile, 5% of victims presented with unstable emotional state such as crying due to pain or suicide attempt.

DISCUSSION

Most of the victims of sexual violence in this study were aged between 20 to 29 years old, and the

incidence tend to decrease in older victims. This finding is consistent with the study by Planty and Langton (2013), in which the incidence of sexual violence against women tend to decline with age.⁴

The majority of sexual violence in this study were committed by someone known by the victim, and only 32% of sexual violence was committed by an unknown offender. Most of the sexual violence was caused by the victim's boyfriend (41%), followed by their husband (18%), ex-husband (5%) and second husband (5%). This finding was consistent with the study by Planty and Langton (2013), in which most rape or sexual assault victims (78%) knew the offender. About 34% of all rape or sexual assault victimizations were committed by an intimate partner (former or current spouse, girlfriend, or boyfriend), 6% by a relative or family member, and 38% by a friend or acquaintance. Strangers committed about 22% of sexual violence.⁴

In this study, most of the victim (80%) did not resist the violence. A study by Leclerc and Wortley (2011) in 94 adult offenders shown that younger girls tend to use self protection more than older girls (86,2% vs 50,9%). Saying that they did not want to be touched and saying "no" to the offender were found to be effective in preventing abuse.⁵

History of past sexual relationship were present in 86% of cases. Past sexual relationship includes relationship with the victim's boyfriend, fiancée, and husband. Signs of vaginal penetration such as tear in hymen, tenderness or bleeding were present in all 44 cases. Sign of oral penetration were present in 6,8% cases and sign of finger penetration were present in 9,1% of cases. Evidence of vaginal ejaculation were present in 20,4% of cases, and oral ejaculation in 2,3% of cases.

Pain around the genital area was reported in 34% of cases of sexual violence. A Study by Planty and Langton (2013) shown that between 2005-2010, 58% of female victims of sexual violence suffered a physical injury during the victimization, such as cuts, bruises, internal injuries, broken bones, gunshot wounds, or rape injuries.⁴

In this study, pregnancy was reported in 11% of cases. A study of adolescents in Ethiopia found that among those who reported being raped, 17% became pregnant after the rape, a figure which is similar to the 15–18% reported by rape crisis centres in Mexico. A longitudinal study in the United States of over 4000 women followed for 3 years found that the national rape related pregnancy rate was 5.0% per rape among victims aged 12–45 years, producing over 32 000 pregnancies nationally among women from rape each year.^{1,6}

Most of sexual violence victims (95%) presented with stable emotional state upon hospital admission

after the incident. However, sexual violence has been associated with a number of mental health and behavioural problems in adolescence and adulthood. In one population-based study, the prevalence of symptoms or signs suggestive of a psychiatric disorder was 33% in women with a history of sexual abuse as adults, 15% in women with a history of physical violence by an intimate partner and 6% in non-abused women.¹

CONCLUSION

The highest incidence of sexual violence in women who reports to Sanglah General Hospital are within the age range of 20-29 years old. The majority of sexual violence in this study were committed by someone known by the victim. Most of the victims did not resist during the sexual violence and had history of previous sexual relationship. Signs of vaginal penetration were found in all of the victims. Most of the victims reported painful intercourse, and presented with stable emotional state.

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