

Safety Including Health Factors Contribute the Female Victims to Escape from Domestic Violence: A Qualitative Analysis

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Abstract

Domestic violence is one of the public health problems, and most of the victims are female. This vulnerable group can no longer bear the suffering caused by the atrocities committed by their husbands. The various abuses that the victim experiences not only impact their health but can also threaten the level of safety of everyone in the family system. This research aims to identify the safety factors including health aspect that contribute to the female victim's violent actions being separate from their husbands. In line with the qualitative approach, in-depth interviews with 15 female informants of domestic violence were conducted around the state of Penang and this analysis using NVIVO 8 software. The results found that the theme of victim safety factors, including injury and social systems, especially children, motivates victims to free themselves from domestic violence and seek help for personal protection. The findings of this study have yielded several recommendations in the context of social work interventions to increase the positive health and social well-being of family system life, especially among female victims of domestic violence.

Keywords: *Female victim of domestic violence, Public Health Issues, Safety, Social work intervention.*

Introduction

The issue of domestic violence that mostly occurs in Malaysia is seen as a form of violence that is often experienced by the victim, namely the wife or loved ones, and the perpetrators consist of their spouses in family institutions [1]. It involves the issue of human rights injustices that occur in civil society. This statement is in line with the views of the World Health Organization (WHO) and relevant countries. Furthermore, the issue of violence is significant with social justice, and it is closely related to social problems in the context of gender violence that occurs against women [2]. According to [3], most women in Malaysia have been detected to be involved in domestic violence cases in the past five years. In addition, the authors explain that the ratification of the Domestic Violence Elimination Law (UU KDRT 23/2004), which also acts as preventive

measures and protection for victims, has been one of the contributors to the surge in the number of cases of violence. The disclosure of this information has to some extent, contributed the positive cognitive of victims to dare to seek protection and the right to social justice in domestic life.

The acquisition of statistical data provided by the [4]. shows that domestic violence cases in all states in Malaysia are more experienced by women than men. Based on the statistics, a total of 673 victims of domestic violence have been detected facing this social issue throughout 2019. From that number, it is clear that most women have been victims of domestic violence, which is 627 people, while men only involve a very small number of 46 people.

The intimate partner violence also a global health issue because it is closely related to various forms of injury suffered by victims in

relationships [5]. It is common knowledge that the issue of domestic violence experienced by the victim is usually done in various forms to affect the victim's well-being holistically. According to [6], it can be divided into five categories, namely (1) physical: involving attempts to commit violent behaviour until a physical injury occurs, preventing and ignoring the victim's need for medical care; (2) sexual: the predator commits coercion and attempts to have sex with the victim in addition to acts of contempt for the sexual aspects of the victim; (3) emotions: acts that insult the victim's self-esteem and the predator commits acts of violence against the victim's identity through acts that abuse the victim's emotions and psychology; (4) psychology: the victim is in fear as a result of a series of threatening or coercive actions committed by the predator, the victim is isolated or distances the victim from the immediate family system as well as loved ones; (5): economics; predatory behaviour that restricts the financial resources of the economy and causes financial dependence among victims.

Thus, knowledge related to the law is important to ensure women's safety from continuing to be victims of domestic violence. One previous research has shown that women victims of violence are less likely to have access to information on legal rights due to the weakness of the country's administrative system to convey legal knowledge, especially to target groups to the detriment of their safety [7]. On the other hand, Malaysia is one of the countries that take the problem of violence in this country seriously, especially among women. Therefore, the Malaysian government administration has taken several steps to help solve this problem. Among them is the implementation of the [8], which aims to eradicate forms of gender discrimination as enshrined in the Federal Constitution and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). It involves all aspects of legislation towards the

well-being of women victims through the quality-of-life assurance in terms of protection, security, justice, law enforcement and gender justice. In addition, the government has established a guideline to understand this issue more clearly, including security through this act [9]. Based on the act, domestic violence can be defined as any form of action as follows:

- [1] Intentionally or knowingly placing or attempting to put the victim in fear, physical injury.
- [2] Causing physical injury to the victim by an act known or ought to have been known would result in physical injury.
- [3] Forcing the victim by coercion or threatening to commit any conduct or act, sexual or otherwise, which the victim is entitled not to do.
- [4] Confine or detain the victim without the victim's consent; or,
- [5] Committing treason or destruction or damage to property with intent to cause or with the knowledge that it is likely to cause grief or annoyance to the victim.

Various forms of violence that occur to victims, especially women, can negatively impact themselves and the social environment system around the victim. [3]. describe the problem of violence that occurs can disrupt the well-being of the entire family institution system, including children, causing female victims, especially wives, to receive various negative effects, including psychological and physical injuries. At one level, the mental health of the domestic violence victims becomes worse because their ideology can change when they think that abusive behavior is familiar in family life and is not contrary to legal aspects or religious demands [3].

The number of women exposed to criminal issues increases in various abuse cases, including domestic violence [10]. It indirectly affects the victim's safety because the serious crime suffered by the victim can not only result in health issues, including physical and mental injury, but it is even capable of causing death.

Therefore, the victim needs to be more courageous in protecting themselves from further abuse by the partner, which is one of the social systems closest to the victim. In parallel, this form of qualitative research is used to identify the safety factors that motivate women victims of domestic violence to take action out of this problem.

Methods

This research uses an exploratory qualitative approach to identify the safety factors that motivate women victims to take action out of the problem of domestic violence. This form of study is very suitable for this research because it can help collect and build important information related to the problem issues to be studied [11].

This research involved the participation of 15 women victims of domestic violence who now live in the state of Penang as informants. The selection of the research sample used the purposive sampling technique to meet several criteria for selecting informants, namely: (1) informants consisted of Malay women who had been married and had separated from their spouses, (2) informants had acted to seek help from where -which sources are available, (3) the informant must be 18 years old and above to ensure that the informant is not from the category of children. All interview processes were conducted at each informant's home according to the regularity, comfort, and suitability of the informant's time. This research also has the problem of the insufficient number of samples. So, the second technique, snowball sampling, is also applied in this research to overcome the lack of participation in the required number of samples.

The semi-structured interview method through the in-depth interview technique is used in this qualitative research to obtain accurate data. The guidance of the existing interview questions in line with the research objectives is used in the interview process conducted in stages. It begins with the

construction of rapport with the informants at the first stage and then carries out the process of digging out information in more depth on them at the next step. The Malay language was used as the medium to conduct interviews with informants, and the average time allocated for each interview was between 30 minutes to one hour. In addition, this research involves several important tools, including audio tape recordings, interview question guidelines, and the researcher's self towards more effective data analysis.

Before transcripts were produced, recordings of all interviews were played several times so that the data processed was accurate and concise. Next, the data undergoes a coding process using NVIVO 8 software towards the production of key themes in line with research objectives. Finally, selecting appropriate verbatim data is important to explain the existing themes.

Regarding the issue of research ethics, the names of the informants involved in the interviews were kept confidential. They were only labelled as R1 to R15 as identification without putting the real name of the informants. Moreover, the question guide used throughout the interview process did not touch on the sensitivity of the informants. All informants were also informed that they had the right to withdraw at any time, and there was no compulsion to answer the questions posed. The consensus was reached when the informants agreed to fill in the available consent form, and this research successfully obtained full participation from all informants (15 people).

Results

All the informants, namely 15 women victims of domestic violence in the research, were in the age range of 20 to 69 years old who came from nine different states, including Sarawak (1), Sabah (1), Penang (4), Kedah (4), Johor (1), Kuala Lumpur (1), Melaka (1), Perak (1), and Kelantan (1). However, they had all migrated and settled in the state of Penang

when this research was conducted. Based on their employment background, the informants consisted of the private sector, government employees, and some of them were self-employed and were also full-time housewives. In addition, the academic background of all informants started with not getting an education in school to getting an education at the highest level, namely a diploma. Most informants experienced physical abuse followed by emotional, financial and sexual abuse.

Based on the research results, several safety factors influence female victims of domestic violence to decide to get out of this problem. Self-factors include the victim's safety due to suffering physical injuries (5 people) and concerns about the increased risk of future safety of the victim (6 people). The second factor is related to the security risk of the existing social system (6 people), and the last factor is the victim receiving security assistance support from the authorities (6 people).

Safety of Victims Due to Physical Injury

A total of 5 informants suffered physical injuries, and the situation prompted a bold action to report the incident to the authorities, especially the police, to protect themselves at that time. The victims tried to defend themselves when the partner abused them during the scuffle. As a result, they suffered physical injuries to all body parts, causing serious bleeding. The following is one of the statements given by the informant, namely R2:

My nose was bleeding from many reasons for struggling with my husband. With a bleeding nose, I went to make a police report. Automatic is like that. If anything, I'll go straight to the police station. It's already set. I want to ask for help from whom, who can help me? I must want to refer it to the police station.

Worse case, one of the informants stated that she was still beaten by her husband even though she told him that she was pregnant at the time. Physical abuse was done mercilessly in front of their children, and the victim's body was

bleeding. The situation encouraged the victim to report it to the nearby police to ensure her safety first. The following is the statement given by the informant, R6:

When I feel I can't stand it, he (husband) is willing to do that when I tell him I'm pregnant. He hit me in front of the children until the blood ran out. I immediately took action to report to the police. I am afraid of anything happening, such as he (husband) knocking or beating us (informants and children). So, I'll make a police report first for safety.

Concerns of Increased Victim Safety Risk in the Future

In addition, a total of 6 victims of violence have decided to come out to free themselves from the cruelty of their husbands for fear that their security level will be affected if they still take the step of remaining silent. It is based on their experience of people who have previously been severely abused by their respective partners, including physically, emotionally, and sexually. Thus, they feel scared because they do not want the same incident to happen again in the future. After all, it surely harms their safety holistically. The following is one of the statements given by the informant, namely R8:

I think I can't stand it because if I continue (continue the relationship) with him (husband), the effect will be on the limbs when I was beaten. The kind of hit the heart to any pliers hit (attack) my body later. Head injuries will subsequently affect my brain. So personal safety is important because all sorts of things can happen if you continue to allow yourself to be the next victim (husband).

One informant decided to separate from her husband due to security factors due to physical and emotional abuse. The informant was also worried about being infected with a chronic sexually transmitted disease that her husband was suffering at the time. She found out her partner had contracted the condition due to having frequent free sex with other women. She seeks the authorities' services based on

personal safety because her husband abused her. The following is one of the statements given by the informant, namely R14:

So, I also afraid of his condition. After that, I told him (husband), if it's like this, I can't stand the abuse and illness that you (husband) has. So, we just split up. He (husband) has an oral sex disease (venereal disease). My husband has this disease, so it's swollen. I don't want to be like that (get the same illness). I don't want him anymore. When I made the police report, I just said that my husband abused me.

Existing Social System Security Risks

A total of 6 informants were detected taking action to leave their spouses due to taking into account the safety aspects of social systems living in one house. The research results found that the social system, which is children, is a strong pulling factor to push victims out of domestic violence because they do not want children to be victims of the situation. In addition, this target group also thinks that there is no guarantee of children's safety in the future if they still survive with a partner. It is because the victims admit they cannot defend the safety of the children if the husband commits the same atrocities against the children one day. So, it motivates the victims to report their abuse case to the authorities and take action to go far away from their partner. The following are among the statements given by the informant, namely R1:

Yes, my son. I think it's because of the child. I don't want my child to get the same effect likes me from my husband's actions because it just so happened that when I was beaten, my child was not there that day. So I'm afraid that if I don't take that action later, who knows, tomorrow he will make it close to the children. So, I decided to make a police report.

Informants also dared to get out of the violence because they were not willing to see the children abused in front of their eyes. It is because they were unable to protect their small children. The inhumane act has prompted the victims to flee with their young children from

being victims of domestic violence. The following are among the statements given by the informant, namely R12:

I also don't want to see my children being beaten and scolded. These children are not there for any sin. The children are still small. I took my children out of the house away from my husband because I couldn't bear to see him hit me.

The research findings found that victims who only experienced emotional abuse were quite different from other types of abuse. Separating from the husband also considers the safety aspects of the aunt who lives together in one house. The safety of the victim's aunt has been affected due to immoral abuse by her husband, causing trauma and fear to the social system. Thus, the incident has opened the victim's eyes to part with his partner so that more serious incidents do not recur, especially to the existing system, which is also a priority in the victim's life. This statement can be seen through information R3:

Factors that I can do like that can be conscious, can dare to take action after he did near my aunt. He poured curry on Mak Anjang's (aunt) head when I was not at home until Mak Anjang (aunt) felt scared. When I found out, that night I also spoke to him, 'I really can't be with you anymore. I want to be stupid for what? I think safety aspect. I am afraid that when he (husband) can do that, it is not impossible he can do worse later.

The Victim Receives Security Assistance Support from the Authorities

The results showed that 7 informants had acted to seek security services from the police. It is seen as among the indicators that motivate victims of female violence to act boldly out of this problem. It is because victims of violence are convinced that this macro system is capable of helping them to get the protection and right to justice they deserve. At the same time, the law enforcement body also helps the victims to communicate with other resources such as the

hospital. It aims to seek medical treatment assistance to victims and related social systems due to the abuse they have experienced. The following is one of the statements given by the informant, namely R1:

The police helped to protect me because I went to the police station first to report the case of my severely abused husband. Then, the police suggested that I go to the hospital for treatment and confirmation of injuries at the hospital. The hospital recommended me to the WCC, and they called me for counselling. So, I feel safer now.

Safety is one of the important things in life because it can ensure the well-being of an individual and the relevant social environment system. Thus, this factor is one of the starting points for the decision of female victims to act out the problem of domestic violence in various ways. This factor is closely related to the victim's safety and the social system around the victim, which also impacts directly or indirectly. In addition, with the help of the authorities, it makes the victims more courageous to seek security protection.

Safety of Victims Due to Physical Injury

Most of the victims of violence involved in this research experienced various abuses, including physical forms by being beaten, strangled in the neck, kicked and punched the victim's limbs until they bled. Even more dangerous, some couples are willing to hurt the pregnant victim without thinking about the safety of the mother and baby in the womb. The situation is very serious because the husband dared to injure the victim without mercy violently. This finding aligns with previous research, which found that factors such as a feeling of harm through negative effects on mental health and physical injury influence the woman's decision to leave the relationship with their partner [12]. This inhumane behaviour occurs because there is still an attitude of gender dominance in the husband that drives them to act cruelly towards the victim, which is

considered weak. It can indirectly help understand the perspective of husbands who are fully in control of their wives and can treat a variety of things to the point of being willing to inflict physical and mental injuries. A Study [13] also explained that patriarchal ideology could affect the safety of women victims because gender injustice through the view of the position of this group is much lower than men form a system of domination and exploitation by men against women in the form of power control.

This form of gender ideology has threatened the safety of victims holistically in family institutions. This description of the safety risk aspects of female victims coincides with another research that shows parts of gender-based attitude injustice and the existence of recognition of wife-beating behaviour across 52 countries are major contributors to physical abuse among women [14].

Based on previous research, among the safety factors that drive victims to seek help to end domestic violence is because they consider past incidents [15], such as having experienced chronic abuse resulting from being injured their partner. -respectively [16]. Thus, it has become a form of momentum among women victims rising to make a big change in their lives by getting various forms of protection and security assistance from the existing social service system. The victim feels unbearable with the multiple sufferings and pains they have endured at this stage over the years.

The research results from [17] showed that victims have acted to seek personal safety protection assistance from the authorities to obtain legislation to avoid life threats and more serious injuries from the partner. Coincidentally, the female victims in this research are also wiser to focus on protection assistance from the legal aspect so that their safety continues to be guaranteed from being further threatened by the partner either in the short term or long-term strategy. The act of reporting violence to appropriate sources helps

improve the victim's social functioning to continue living without fear of being re-interrupted by a partner.

At the same time, victims report the violence case to the authorities to ensure their safety. It is indirectly shown that the wives have begun to reject the culture of husband domination in the household they have followed before. In addition, the victim is part of a group of Malay Muslims who have rejected the husband's cruel actions because it contradicts the principles of marriage in the context of Islam. The injustice of women's rights as a wife is getting worse to the point of threatening the victim's safety. This violence is contrary to justice in Islamic jurisprudence because this principle of the holy religion is more concerned with building a noble personality towards human beings than every aspect, including the institution of marriage in Islam [18].

Concerns Of Increased Victim Safety Risk in The Future

One previous study showed that women experience more psychological suffering when compared to men [19]. Worse, it exerts an impact in the form of emotional trauma on victims of violence [20]. Thus, it can be understood through the results of this research because female victims of domestic violence are no longer willing to survive emotionally and physically. So, the victim took action to run away from her husband without help from other support systems because she was too worried about harming herself if she continued to be a victim of violence. The victims think about their safety level in the future, such as dying at the husband's hands due to constant abuse.

The decision to separate from the husband was not only due to safety due to physical abuse, but this action was taken because the victim did not want to bear the risk of sexually transmitted diseases suffered by the husband. It shows that the victim is thinking about the need for personal health care for the long term because the disease can be transmitted and can

cause harm to the victim in the future. Sexually transmitted infections are diseases transmitted due to having sexual intercourse with many couples. This activity is contrary to moral values and has a negative perspective, especially among Muslims in the Malay community. It is because individuals infected with this disease usually engage in free sexual activity, which is a behaviour that is not in line with the teachings of Islam. It indirectly shows that the victims also considered the Malay community's negative views regarding the disease and encouraged the victim to separate from his partner.

A Study [21] also stated that women could be one of the agents of culture change, which can indirectly improve themselves, society, and the country in line with the high value of quality life.

The research results related to this aspect can also be explained through systems theory pioneered by [22]. He explained that interactions or transactions between systems involve several processes, namely input, output, through put and feedback in the context of domestic violence. For example, the output process is cruelty that the husband has committed, and the matter causes the input process to happen to the victim himself. The victim felt his safety was threatened if he remained silent. Next, the process that occurs throughput is the exchange of energy from the husband's abuse to the negative effects felt by the victim. Thus, the feedback resulting from the actions of the two processes can be seen through the victims' efforts to free themselves by reporting cases of violence suffered to the authorities.

It indicates positive feedback through the throughput process because it can produce output energy that can bring balance or stability to the victim's system to achieve a level of homeostasis. As a result, the victim can indirectly protect themselves and enjoy better survival than before.

Existing Social System Security Risks

In addition to the victims, some couples are willing to release stress and anger to their children, especially through physical and emotional abuse. The victim is no longer willing to see her husband hit and issue abusive words to the children, especially when the husband is angry. Furthermore, this should not happen to children who are still young and innocent because it can have a very big negative impact, especially on children's psychosocial growth in the short and long term. Thus, the bitter experienced of the children contribute to female victims' action to get security protection either through the help of social services or the act of fleeing with the children away from the partner's interference. This description is in line with the results of [23] research which explains that the family is an institution that should ensure the development of children holistically. The finding also shows that children are often victims of domestic violence either directly or indirectly. As a result, the research results show that children experience psychological trauma, which leads to the formation of falsehoods related to violence by assuming that acts of violence are one of the right methods towards problem-solving. The research also explains that children who have witnessed domestic violence also negatively impact their psychological development. As a result, children suffer and form depressive behaviours in themselves in the long run. In addition, these children are also at high risk of repeating atrocities they have witnessed or experienced as children by acting as perpetrators of violence against others after they become adults.

The research results found that the domestic violence that occurred harmed the victims. Other people such as young children and aunts who live together in one house are also negatively impacted by the violence. It coincides with [24] research results, who detected that violence between couples also

harms psychosocial problems, including mental and emotional health, including children and adolescents. It encourages the female victims to seek enforcement assistance to get out of this violence because they do not want the safety of sub-systems in the family to be affected due to the abuse. It is also closely related to ensuring the safety of children and other social systems, especially if the victim is not with them at that time. The results of this study have been supported by [25] that children are a major contributing factor to the steps taken by victims to leave their abusive husbands. The motivation that arises is to focus on the safety of children and take into account the development of children who are more secure towards development in the long run. The problem of domestic violence can have psychological effects such as emotional disability and depression on children who are part of the family members involved [26].

In addition to children, women victims also consider the safety of other social systems who live in the same house with them, including aunts who the victim's husband has abused. This study has indirectly proved the victim's courage through the attitude of concern that considers the safety of people around, and the matter drives the victim's actions out of domestic violence. The behaviour does not contradict the Islamic perspective regarding family, which demands the value of love between each family member. It also coincides with [27], who explained that Islam requires men to play a role as leaders in the family institution while emphasizing the concept of social justice and respect for human rights for both men and women.

In addition, one past research shows some cultures accepting domestic violence behaviour include support for forms of violence that occur in the home and adopting male dominance ideologies over women [28]. However, the results of this research have detected that victims who focus on security aspects have prevented the culture of violence in the form of

control and power of the husband imposed on them as a family because it is capable of holistic harm. These positive changes have benefited victims and others. It is detected through Malay women victims who dared to stop their husbands' behaviour who dominated their family in the form of patriarchal culture.

The Victim Receives Security Assistance Support from the Authorities

Victims of domestic violence use a formal assistance system when handling their problems to seek intervention services covering aspects of personal safety and planning to solve the problems faced, including the legal part [29]. The previous study is in line with the findings of this research which shows the support of security assistance from the system at the macro level has been one of the strengths to the victims of taking positive action out of domestic violence. The security guarantees provided by the authorities, especially the police, can provide holistic protection to the victims and the social system concerned. In addition, it helps to expand the network of safety needs of victims from the aspects of physical medical treatment, psychological rehabilitation, and the right to social justice through legislation through the disclosure of other resources that also help overcome domestic problems. According to [30], wider exposure to contact resources can help victims of violence continue to live better lives by involving various social agency services relevant to the needs of this group. It includes protection, health, placement, housing, child services, and counselling services. Other research results also show the role of formal social networks from psychological, emotional, social, legal and placement aspects to be among the very important intermediaries to help victims of domestic abuse [32].

Discussion

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individual and the relevant social environment system. Thus, this factor is one of the starting points for the decision of female victims to act out the problem of domestic violence in various ways. This factor is closely related to the victim's safety and the social system around the victim, which also impacts directly or indirectly. In addition, with the help of the authorities, it makes the victims more courageous to seek security protection.

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The research results from [17]. showed that victims have acted to seek personal safety protection assistance from the authorities to obtain legislation to avoid life threats and more serious injuries from the partner. Coincidentally, the female victims in this research are also wiser to focus on protection assistance from the legal aspect so that their safety continues to be guaranteed from being further threatened by the partner either in the short term or long term strategy. The act of reporting violence to appropriate sources helps improve the victim's social functioning to continue living without fear of being re - interrupted by a partner.

At the same time, victims report the violence case to the authorities to ensure their safety. It is indirectly shown that the wives have begun to reject the culture of husband domination in the household they have followed before. In addition, the victim is part of a group of Malay Muslims who have rejected the husband's cruel actions because it contradicts the principles of marriage in the context of Islam. The injustice of women's rights as a wife is getting worse to the point of threatening the victim's safety. This violence is contrary to justice in Islamic

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The decision to separate from the husband was not only due to safety due to physical abuse, but this action was taken because the victim did not want to bear the risk of sexually transmitted diseases suffered by the husband. It shows that the victim is thinking about the need for personal health care for the long term because the disease can be transmitted and can cause harm to the victim in the future. Sexually transmitted infections are diseases transmitted due to having sexual intercourse with many couples. This activity is contrary to moral values and has a negative perspective, especially among Muslims in the Malay community. It is because individuals infected with this disease usually engage in free sexual activity, which is a behaviour that is not in line with the teachings of Islam. It indirectly shows that the victims also considered the Malay community's negative views regarding the disease and encouraged the victim to separate from his partner. [21]. also stated that women could be one of the agents of culture change,

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Existing Social System Security Risks

In addition to the victims, some couples are willing to release stress and anger to their children, especially through physical and emotional abuse. The victim is no longer willing to see her husband hit and issue abusive words to the children, especially when the husband is angry. Furthermore, this should not happen to children who are still young and innocent because it can have a very big negative impact, especially on children's psychosocial growth in the short and long term. Thus, the bitter experienced of the children contribute to female victims' action to get security protection either through the help of social services or the act of fleeing with the children away from the partner's interference.

This description is in line with the results of [23]. research which explains that the family is an institution that should ensure the development of children holistically. The finding also shows that children are often victims of domestic violence either directly or indirectly. As a result, the research results show that children experience psychological trauma, which leads to the formation of falsehoods related to violence by assuming that acts of violence are one of the right methods towards problem-solving. The research also explains that children who have witnessed domestic violence also negatively impact their psychological development. As a result, children suffer and form depressive behaviours in themselves in the long run. In addition, these children are also at high risk of repeating atrocities they have witnessed or experienced as children by acting as perpetrators of violence against others after they become adults.

The research results found that the domestic violence that occurred harmed the victims. Other people such as young children and aunts who live together in one house are also negatively impacted by the violence. It coincides with [24]. research results, who detected that violence between couples also harms psychosocial problems, including mental and emotional health, including children and adolescents. It encourages the female victims to seek enforcement assistance to get out of this violence because they do not want the safety of sub-systems in the family to be affected due to the abuse. It is also closely related to ensuring the safety of children and other social systems, especially if the victim is not with them at that time. The results of this study have been supported by [25]. that children are a major contributing factor to the steps taken by victims to leave their abusive husbands. The motivation that arises is to focus on the safety of children and take into account the development of children who are more secure towards development in the long run. The problem of domestic violence can have psychological

effects such as emotional disability and depression on children who are part of the family members involved [26].

In addition to children, women victims also consider the safety of other social systems who live in the same house with them, including aunts who the victim's husband has abused. This study has indirectly proved the victim's courage through the attitude of concern that considers the safety of people around, and the matter drives the victim's actions out of domestic violence.

The behaviour does not contradict the Islamic perspective regarding family, which demands the value of love between each family member. It also coincides with [27]., who explained that Islam requires men to play a role as leaders in the family institution while emphasizing the concept of social justice and respect for human rights for both men and women.

One past research shows some cultures accepting domestic violence behaviour include support for forms of violence that occur in the home and adopting male dominance ideologies over women [28].

However, the results of this research have detected that victims who focus on security aspects have prevented the culture of violence in the form of control and power of the husband imposed on them as a family because it is capable of holistic harm. These positive changes have benefited victims and others. It is detected through Malay women victims who dared to stop their husbands' behaviour who dominated their family in the form of patriarchal culture.

The Victim Receives Security Assistance Support from The Authorities

Victims of domestic violence use a formal assistance system when handling their problems to seek intervention services covering aspects of personal safety and planning to solve the problems faced, including the legal part [29]. The previous study is in line with the findings

of this research which shows the support of security assistance from the system at the macro level has been one of the strengths to the victims of taking positive action out of domestic violence. The security guarantees provided by the authorities, especially the police, can provide holistic protection to the victims and the social system concerned. In addition, it helps to expand the network of safety needs of victims from the aspects of physical medical treatment, psychological rehabilitation, and the right to social justice through legislation through the disclosure of other resources that also help overcome domestic problems.

According to [30]., wider exposure to contact resources can help victims of violence continue to live better lives by involving various social agency services relevant to the needs of this group. It includes protection, health, placement, housing, child services, and counselling services. Other research results also show the role of formal social networks from psychological, emotional, social, legal and placement aspects to be among the very important intermediaries to help victims of domestic abuse [31].

Safety is one of the important things in life because it can ensure the well-being of an individual and the relevant social environment system. Thus, this factor is one of the starting points for the decision of female victims to act out the problem of domestic violence in various ways. This factor is closely related to the victim's safety and the social system around the victim, which also impacts directly or indirectly. In addition, with the help of the authorities, it makes the victims more courageous to seek security protection.

Safety of Victims Due to Physical Injury

Most of the victims of violence involved in this research experienced various abuses, including physical forms by being beaten, strangled in the neck, kicked and punched the victim's limbs until they bled. Even more

dangerous, some couples are willing to hurt the pregnant victim without thinking about the safety of the mother and baby in the womb. The situation is very serious because the husband dared to injure the victim without mercy violently. This finding aligns with previous research, which found that factors such as a feeling of harm through negative effects on mental health and physical injury influence the woman's decision to leave the relationship with their partner [12]. This inhumane behaviour occurs because there is still an attitude of gender dominance in the husband that drives them to act cruelly towards the victim, which is considered weak. It can indirectly help understand the perspective of husbands who are fully in control of their wives and can treat a variety of things to the point of being willing to inflict physical and mental injuries. A Study [13] also explained that patriarchal ideology could affect the safety of women victims because gender injustice through the view of the position of this group is much lower than men form a system of domination and exploitation by men against women in the form of power control.

This form of gender ideology has threatened the safety of victims holistically in family institutions. This description of the safety risk aspects of female victims coincides with another research that shows parts of gender-based attitude injustice and the existence of recognition of wife-beating behaviour across 52 countries are major contributors to physical abuse among women [14].

Based on previous research, among the safety factors that drive victims to seek help to end domestic violence is because they take into account past incidents [15], such as having experienced chronic abuse resulting from being injured their partner. -respectively [16]. Thus, it has become a form of momentum among women victims rising to make a big change in their lives by getting various forms of protection and security assistance from the existing social service system. The victim feels

unbearable with the multiple sufferings and pains they have endured at this stage over the years.

The research results from [17] showed that victims have acted to seek personal safety protection assistance from the authorities to obtain legislation to avoid life threats and more serious injuries from the partner. Coincidentally, the female victims in this research are also wiser to focus on protection assistance from the legal aspect so that their safety continues to be guaranteed from being further threatened by the partner either in the short term or long-term strategy. The act of reporting violence to appropriate sources helps improve the victim's social functioning to continue living without fear of being re - interrupted by a partner.

At the same time, victims report the violence case to the authorities to ensure their safety. It is indirectly shown that the wives have begun to reject the culture of husband domination in the household they have followed before. In addition, the victim is part of a group of Malay Muslims who have rejected the husband's cruel actions because it contradicts the principles of marriage in the context of Islam.

The injustice of women's rights as a wife is getting worse to the point of threatening the victim's safety. This violence is contrary to justice in Islamic jurisprudence because this principle of the holy religion is more concerned with building a noble personality towards human beings than every aspect, including the institution of marriage in Islam [18].

Concerns of Increased Victim Safety Risk in The Future

One previous study showed that women experience more psychological suffering when compared to men [19]. Worse, it exerts an impact in the form of emotional trauma on victims of violence [20]. Thus, it can be understood through the results of this research because female victims of domestic violence are no longer willing to survive emotionally

and physically. So, the victim took action to run away from her husband without help from other support systems because she was too worried about harming herself if she continued to be a victim of violence. The victims think about their safety level in the future, such as dying at the husband's hands due to constant abuse.

The decision to separate from the husband was not only due to safety due to physical abuse, but this action was taken because the victim did not want to bear the risk of sexually transmitted diseases suffered by the husband. It shows that the victim is thinking about the need for personal health care for the long term because the disease can be transmitted and can cause harm to the victim in the future. Sexually transmitted infections are diseases transmitted due to having sexual intercourse with many couples. This activity is contrary to moral values and has a negative perspective, especially among Muslims in the Malay community. It is because individuals infected with this disease usually engage in free sexual activity, which is a behaviour that is not in line with the teachings of Islam. It indirectly shows that the victims also considered the Malay community's negative views regarding the disease and encouraged the victim to separate from his partner. A Study [21] also stated that women could be one of the agents of culture change, which can indirectly improve themselves, society, and the country in line with the high value of quality life.

The research results related to this aspect can also be explained through systems theory pioneered by [22]. He explained that interactions or transactions between systems involve several processes, namely input, output, throughput and feedback in the context of domestic violence. For example, the output process is cruelty that the husband has committed, and the matter causes the input process to happen to the victim himself. The victim felt his safety was threatened if he remained silent. Next, the process that occurs throughput is the exchange of energy from the

husband's abuse to the negative effects felt by the victim. Thus, the feedback resulting from the actions of the two processes can be seen through the victims' efforts to free themselves by reporting cases of violence suffered to the authorities. It indicates positive feedback through the throughput process because it can produce output energy that can bring balance or stability to the victim's system to achieve a level of homeostasis. As a result, the victim can indirectly protect themselves and enjoy better survival than before.

Existing Social System Security Risks

In addition to the victims, some couples are willing to release stress and anger to their children, especially through physical and emotional abuse. The victim is no longer willing to see her husband hit and issue abusive words to the children, especially when the husband is angry. Furthermore, this should not happen to children who are still young and innocent because it can have a very big negative impact, especially on children's psychosocial growth in the short and long term. Thus, the bitter experienced of the children contribute to female victims' action to get security protection either through the help of social services or the act of fleeing with the children away from the partner's interference. This description is in line with the results of [23] research which explains that the family is an institution that should ensure the development of children holistically. The finding also shows that children are often victims of domestic violence either directly or indirectly. As a result, the research results show that children experience psychological trauma, which leads to the formation of falsehoods related to violence by assuming that acts of violence are one of the right methods towards problem-solving. The research also explains that children who have witnessed domestic violence also negatively impact their psychological development. As a result, children suffer and form depressive behaviours

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Conclusion

Safety factors are the most important needs among women victims of domestic violence because they are exposed to various health threats from their partners, whether physically, emotionally, socially, or sexually. Thus, several safety aspects, including the victim's self, protection of the social system living in the same house as the victim, and access to support from enforcement, are the motivating factors for female victims to take positive steps to get out of the realm of domestic violence. If the safety aspect is neglected, the victims involved in this problem issue are always in a state of danger and fear that can lead to the risk of death.

Therefore, some suggestions through practical social work interventions are seen to help reduce the problem of domestic violence, especially among women who are the main target group towards improving social functioning. The social work profession thrives in assistance services provided to each individual through three important aspects: restoration of social function, provision of social services, and preventive measures [32].

One of the recommendations based on the results of this research is the competence of social workers in conducting social work interventions by an individual based on various forms of relevant knowledge, the application of values and ethics of the social work profession and applying different appropriate skills. By gathering information, social workers can find out the real problems faced by victims of

violence and the main reasons victims feel their safety is threatened to drive action out of these problems. In turn, social workers can carry out the relief process by connecting the victim with appropriate service resources in line with the need to help protect the victim from further harassment by the partner.

In addition, group interventions can also be implemented to help victims by involving support groups consisting of female victims who have previously experienced domestic violence. This strategy is more effective because all group members have the same problem background. As a result, sharing problems, ideas, and goals of the victim to improve the functioning of life can be achieved more easily. In addition to acting as facilitators, social workers can also play a role as educators by providing various information related to social justice rights and protection. The sharing of various information can empower the victims and expand the knowledge related to social assistance support services from security protection so that these groups continue to face the challenges of life, especially in the future. At the same time, multidisciplinary resources comprising governmental and non - governmental bodies offering security protection services covering enforcement, health and legislation need to be involved in the social work intervention process. It can be done through a prevention approach either in case work or group work so that victims of violence against women and the social systems involved get accurate information from real sources.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare there is no conflict of interest in the course of producing this article.

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