

## VERBAL SEXUAL HARASSMENT : VIEWS OF INDONESIAN MUSLIM WOMEN

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DOI : <http://dx.doi.org/10.30983/humanism.v7i1>

Received: march 7, 2023	Revised: July 22, 2023	Published: July 30, 2023
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### **Abstract**

*This study aims to determine women's views on verbal sexual harassment in terms of cognitive, affective, and conative factors. This is due to the increasing number of acts of sexual harassment that occur against women, one of which is in the public sphere. Forms of verbal sexual harassment that occurred in the form of whistling, negative speech, seduction, comments, sharp stares at body parts, or physical abuse. The research method used is a qualitative method. Data were collected through observation and interviews. There were 33 participants involved in the research. The determination of research subjects used a purposive sampling technique. The research subjects were students of UIN Imam Bonjol Padang, UIN Sjech Djamil Djambel Bukittinggi, and UIN Mahmud Yunus Batusangkar. The research results show that on the cognitive aspect, there were participants who knew and did not know about verbal sexual harassment. In the affective aspect, all participants felt uncomfortable, irritated, anxious, and afraid. In the conative aspect, some informants resisted and some did not; this was because the participants were afraid of the perpetrators and did not want to ignore the actions they received. The implication of the research is to raise people's awareness that harassment is not only physical but also verbal.*

**Keywords:** Perception, Verbal sexual harassment, Women

### **Abstrak**

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui pandangan perempuan terhadap pelecehan seksual verbal ditinjau dari kognitif, afektif, dan konatif. Hal ini disebabkan semakin maraknya pelecehan seksual yang terjadi terhadap perempuan, salah satunya di ranah publik. Bentuk pelecehan seksual verbal yang terjadi berupa siulan, ucapan negatif, rayuan, komentar, tatapan tajam ke bagian tubuh, hingga kekerasan fisik. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah metode kualitatif. Data dikumpulkan melalui observasi dan wawancara. Ada 33 peserta yang terlibat dalam penelitian. Penentuan subjek penelitian menggunakan teknik purposive sampling. Subjek penelitian adalah mahasiswa UIN Imam Bonjol Padang, UIN Sjech Djamil Djambek Bukittinggi dan UIN Mahmud Yunus Batusangkar. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa pada aspek kognitif, terdapat partisipan yang mengetahui dan tidak mengetahui tentang pelecehan seksual verbal. Pada aspek afektif, semua peserta merasa tidak nyaman, jengkel, cemas, dan takut. Pada aspek *conative*, beberapa informan menolak dan beberapa tidak, hal ini dikarenakan para peserta takut dengan pelaku dan tidak mau mengabaikan tindakan yang mereka terima. Implikasi dari penelitian ini adalah untuk meningkatkan kesadaran masyarakat bahwa pelecehan tidak hanya fisik, tetapi juga verbal.

**Kata kunci:** Persepsi, Pelecehan seksual verbal, Perempuan

## Introduction

Pelecehan seksual terhadap perempuan semakin meningkat. Hal ini dibuktikan dengan data tahun 2019 yang disampaikan oleh Safe Public Space Coalition Alliance yang terdiri dari beberapa organisasi. Data menunjukkan bahwa 64% perempuan dan 11% laki-laki pernah mengalami pelecehan di ruang publik.<sup>1</sup> Without realizing it, many actions that are considered normal were found to be involved in sexual harassment.

Sexual harassment is unwanted and unknown behaviour or attention of a sexual nature, the consequences of which can be detrimental to the recipient of the harassment.<sup>2</sup> Sexual harassment is also a form of humiliating or looking down on someone because of matters relating to sex, gender, or sexual activity between men and women.<sup>3</sup> Sexual harassment can be interpreted as an activity or sexual act through physical or verbal touch that is unwanted by the victim and causes discomfort to the person who is harassed.

Sexual abuse can happen without seeing the place, age, or type of sex. One form of sexual abuse is verbal abuse, like whistling, greeting, or leading comments; one element of attempt and condescension; seduction with meaning; and so on. However, not yet many understand society about abuse, verbal and sexual. It marked hamper does not exist, according to reports from experienced victims of verbal sexual violence. One of the causal factors for low awareness of the report is the possibility of a low understanding of the public abuse of verbal sex alone. Also, experienced

people who abuse sexuality do not feel or understand that they are victims of sexual abuse.

I distinguish five types of sexual harassment, namely verbal, non-verbal, visual, psychological, and physical abuse.<sup>4</sup> Verbal sexual harassment can include whistling, seduction, and obscene comments. Non-verbally, for example, by glaring or looking at other people inappropriately. Visual sexual harassment is in the form of showing others pornographic content or material. Psychological sexual harassment can be in the form of invitations to attend social events, such as unwanted dates, even though the invitation has been rejected many times. Furthermore, physical sexual harassment is like touching someone's limbs inappropriately.

Komnas Perempuan explains in more detail that there are 15 forms of sexual harassment, including rape, sexual intimidation, sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, trafficking in women, forced prostitution, sexual slavery, forced marriage, forced pregnancy, forced abortion, forced contraception, and sterilisation, sexual torture, inhuman and sexual punishment, traditional practices with sexual nuances that harm women, and sexual control.<sup>5</sup>

The results of a survey conducted by Lentera Sintas Indonesia in 2016 on victims who experienced verbal sexual harassment showed that 58% of respondents had experienced verbal harassment.<sup>6</sup> The results is increasing during the COVID-19 pandemic,

<sup>4</sup>Ismail, "Factors Influencing Sexual Harassment In the Malaysian Workplace," *Asian Academy of Management Journal* 12, no. 2 (2007): 15–31.

<sup>5</sup>National Commission on Violence Against Women, "15 Forms of Sexual Violence: An Introduction," 2017, <https://komnasperempuan.go.id/instrumen-modul-reference-pemantauan-detail/15-shape-kekerasan-sexual-a-pengenalan>.

<sup>6</sup>Magdalene, "90 Percent of Rape Victims in Indonesia Are Silent," 2016, <https://www.dw.com/id/90-persen-korban-pemeriksaan-di-indonesia-bungkam/a-19427038>.

<sup>1</sup>Widia Primastika, "Harassment is not caused by clothing; Loose clothes & hijab are also subject to it," 2019, <https://tirto.id/pelecehan-bukan-akibat-dinding-berbaju-longgar-berhijab-pun-kena-eeFQ>.

<sup>2</sup>Syaiful Bahri and Fajriani, "An initial study of the level of sexual harassment in Aceh," *Journal of Enlightenment* 9, no. 1 (2015): 50–65.

<sup>3</sup>Namora Lamongga Lubis, *Psychology of Reproductive Health: Women & Their reproductive development is reviewed from the physical and psychological aspects* (Jakarta: Kencana, 2016), 114.

namely 78% or more of 3000 women experienced sexual abuse<sup>7</sup>.

In terms of theoretical abuse, more verbal sexual abuse is known as catcalling. Angelina and Yugih (2019) also explain the catcalling phenomenon among women in Jakarta. In his research, it was found that catcalling was verbal sexual harassment and from rape culture. Rape culture is a situation where rape is considered normal by society.<sup>8</sup> Catcalling is also a form of street harassment<sup>9</sup>.

Chun, as quoted by Lubis (2016) identifies catcalling as the use of indecent words and verbal and non-verbal expressions that occur in public places<sup>10</sup>. Verbally, the act of catcalling is usually seen in the form of whistles, comments about appearance, or remarks with sexual overtones. While non-verbal expressions can be in the form of glances or physical gestures that act to provide an assessment of a woman's appearance.

The impact felt by victims of sexual harassment consists of psychological, physical, and occupational impacts.<sup>11</sup> The psychological impact felt by the victim included feelings of decreased self-esteem, decreased self-confidence, depression, anxiety, fear of rape, increased fear of other criminal acts, guilt, anger, humiliation, shame, and trauma.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Ayuningtyas , "Survey: Sexual harassment continues to occur in public spaces ," 2022, <https://www.dw.com/id/pelecehan-sexual-di-dinding-public-selama-pandemi/a-60608455>

<sup>8</sup> Hidayat Angeline and SetyantoYugih, "The phenomenon of catcalling as a form of verbal sexual harassment against women in Jakarta," *Journal of the Faculty of Communication Sciences, University of Tarumanegara*3, no. 2 (2019): 485–92.

<sup>9</sup>Collen O'Leary, "Catcalling as a 'double edged sword'.Midwestern women, their experience, and the implications of men's catcalling behaviors" (Illinois State University, 2016).

<sup>10</sup>lubis, *Psychology of Prosperity: Women & their reproductive development in terms of physical and psychological aspects* , 32.

<sup>11</sup>lubis, 117.

<sup>12</sup>Eli Nur Hayati, *Guide for Companion of Women Victims of Violence: Gender-Based Counseling* (Yogyakarta: RifkaAnisa and Learning Library, 2000), 45.

The physical impact felt by victims of sexual harassment can be in the form of headaches, eating disorders, digestive disorders, nausea, weight loss or gain, and delirium. The impact on the job is to disrupt careers, decrease morale, decrease work productivity, damage relationships with co-workers, and decrease self-confidence.<sup>13</sup>

Sexual harassment experienced by victims can also result in mental disorders.<sup>14</sup> In addition, the psychological impact experienced by victims is that they tend to be alone, ostracised in society, expelled from school, self-blamed, and subjected to prolonged trauma.<sup>15</sup>

However, not all women victims of sexual harassment in the form of catcalling or verbal sexual harassment understand that they are victims. The results of initial observations made on several women who received catcalling did not feel angry, did not express themselves, and even smiled happily. This is possible because they do not understand verbal sexual harassment. Therefore, it is assumed that the public's perception, especially young women's, is necessary to have a perception or understanding of verbal sexual harassment.

Perception is the active process that plays a role not only in the stimulus that hits it but also in the individual as a whole with his experiences, motivations, and relevant attitudes in dealing with the stimulus.<sup>16</sup> Perception is also a process that is used by individuals to manage and interpret sensory messages from the environment to give meaning to the environment by organizing and interpreting them so that they will influence individual

<sup>13</sup>National Commission Women , "15 Forms of Violence: An Introduction."

<sup>14</sup>Yurika Fauzia Wardhani and Weni Lestari, "Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in Victims of Sexual Harassment and Rape," *Journal of Society, Culture, and Politics* , 2007, 1–8.

<sup>15</sup>Bahri and Fajriani, "A Preliminary Study of the Level of Sexual Harassment in Aceh."

<sup>16</sup>Bimo Walgito, *introduction to general psychology* (Yogyakarta: Andi Offset, 2003).

behavior.<sup>17</sup> So perception can be understood as the way a person sees, views, or interprets a message he receives on an object, event, or information obtained through the senses he has, then produces a message or information obtained from the stimulus that concerns him so that he can interpret and make decisions based on the individual's knowledge and experience.

The process of forming perception begins with the object that causes the stimulus, registration, interpretation, and feedback.<sup>18</sup> The process of forming perception occurs when the five senses receive a stimulus and then select the stimulus received. Then the process of organising information is influenced by various factors and depends on one's ability to categorise information. Next, interpret the data received and check whether the data is interpreted correctly or incorrectly. The last process is how to react to it in the displayed action.

Perception is formed because of internal factors and external factors<sup>19</sup>. Internal factors include attention, physiology, interest, unidirectional needs, experience and memory, and mood. While external factors include the self-placement of the object or stimulus, the colour of the object, the unique contrast of the stimulus, the intensity and strength of the stimulus, and movement. It is also influenced by the knowledge he has based on reading, education, and past experiences that happened around him.

All port explained that essentially perception is the interrelation of various aspects, namely cognitive, affective, and conative aspects.<sup>20</sup> The cognitive aspect is

composed of knowledge, understanding, or information that a person has about the object of his attitude. The affective aspect relates to feelings of pleasure and displeasure. While conative is a person's readiness to behave related to the object of his attitude.

Basically, everyone's perception is different because individual responses are influenced by internal and external factors. The understanding of women who have been victims of catcalling and those who have never been victims of catcalling will also be different. Stimuli received by individuals cause changes in responding to the environment through cognition processes that are influenced by experience, understanding, and individual knowledge.

Naufal Al-Rahman explained in his research that female students wearing headscarves interpret verbal sexual harassment differently according to their interpretation. Female students wearing the syar'i hijab interpret it as sexual harassment but do not need to be hyperbolized, while female students wearing the non-syar'i hijab interpret it as a form of sexual harassment with a negative connotation but can still be tolerated because there is no physical contact.<sup>21</sup>

In contrast to Naufal, the results of research conducted by Desi and Adnyaswari on catcalling found that most people said that catcalling was not a joke or an ordinary compliment. Those who experience catcalling feel angry, disgusted, and afraid when they experience catcalling. In addition, it is necessary to have a special rule governing catcalling.<sup>22</sup>

Based on the explanation above, it is interesting to study the perceptions of Muslim

<sup>17</sup>Stephen P Robbins, *Organizational Behavior Book I* (Jakarta: SelembaEmpat, 2003).

<sup>18</sup>MiftahThoha, *Organizational Behavior*(Jakarta: Raja GrafindoPersada, 2003), 145.

<sup>19</sup> Maktun Khairani, *General Psychology* (Yogyakarta: AswajaPresindo, 2016), 63.

<sup>20</sup>Dwi Prasetia Danarjati, *Introduction to General Psychology* (Yogyakarta: GrahaIlmu, 2013), 25.

<sup>21</sup> Naufal Al-Rahman, "Verbal Sexual Harassment of Hijab Students (Study of the Meaning of Verbal Sexual Harassment Experiences for Hijab Students in Surabaya City)," *Journal of Airlangga University Library* 10, no. 2 (2019): 1–19.

<sup>22</sup> Desi and Adnyaswari, "Catcalling: Jokes, Compliments, or Sexual Harassment."

women and Indonesian youth against verbal sexual harassment. The reason for selecting the students to be a subject is because, in a manner, an intellectual student is a group that can think critically, has its own outlook, and has a strong analysis of something, issue, or object.

**Methods**

This study uses a qualitative method. The research was conducted in three colleges: the State Islamic College of West Sumatra, namely the State Islamic University (UIN) Imam Bonjol Padang, UIN Sjech M. Djamil Djambek Bukittinggi, and UIN Mahmud Yunus Batusangkar. Taking research subjects using a purposive sampling technique with characteristics that are in accordance with the research objectives The criteria for research subjects were female students in three colleges who had experienced verbal sexual harassment. Informants interviewed 33 people.

Data is collected through observation and interviews. Observations were made of female students who experienced verbal sexual harassment. After observing, the researcher conducted interviews so that in-depth information could be obtained about women's perceptions of verbal sexual harassment. The list of questions that will be asked of the subject regarding verbal sexual harassment in terms of cognitive, affective, and conative aspects

The data that was obtained from the results of observations and interviews was then analyzed. The flow of the data analysis technique is in the form of (1) data reduction, choosing the main things, and focusing on important things related to female students' perceptions of verbal sexual harassment. (2). Presentation of data: Data is presented in the form of a brief description so that it is easy to understand. (3). Verify data or conclusions; this is done to review data that can be fielded. Then conclusions were drawn related to women's perceptions of verbal sexual

harassment in studies on UIN Imam Bonjol Padang students.

**Discussion**

**Informant Description**

The description of the informants is as follows:.

**Table 1.Information Description**

No	Name	Age (Th)	UIN	Forms of Sexual Harassment
1.	R	20	dd	Whistling and seduction
2.	N	23	IB	Whistling and seduction, laughed at
3.	H	21	IB	Seductive greetings, long stares
4.	L	21	MY	Whistle, seduce, comment
5.	C	20	dd	Flirt, laughed at, whistled
6.	Q	22	MY	Whistle, wink, seduce
7.	A	23	IB	whistle, temptation.
8.	Ne	22	IB	Whistling, cheering, clapping, winks mocked,
9.	ic	19	IB	Whistling, being called out, followed by joking
10.	ev	18	dd	Approache

				d, looked at at a glance	25. DD	20	IB	cheers , Whistle,
11.	Rf	23	IB	Looked at, invited acquaintance	26.	EP	20	dd wink, seduce . Wink, whistle
12.	Wk	20	IB	Looked at Rebuked with a wink	27.	TE	23	MY greetings , Looked at Whistle,
13.	Fg	19	MY	Looked at stared	28.	AR	20	IB seduce, comment . stared
14.	EP	20	IB	cheered Whistle and appeal	29.	BN	20	dd Whistling cheers . stared
15.	AG	19	IB	Wink, whistle	30.	HI	19	dd Whistling cheers, whistle, temptation.
16.	NF	21	dd	Flirt, whistle	31.	TY	21	MY Whistling and seduction
17.	SE	20	dd	Laughed at, whistled, seduced	31.	OP	20	IB Whistle, wink, seduce
18.	HP	21	MY	Whistle, seduce, comment	32.	JR	21	IB Whistling cheers, Whistle,
19.	M N	20	IB	greetings, Looked at Flirt, laughed at, whistled	33.		20	IB seduce, comment.
20.	WR	23	IB	Gaze Whistling cheers , temptation, seduction .	Description : IB = Imam Bonjol , DD = DjamilDjambek , MY = Mahmud Yunus			
21.	RN	21	IB	Whistling, being called .	The forms of sexual harassment that were experienced were in the form of whistling and seduction, greetings, and teasing. In addition, forms of sexual harassment can also be seductive, such as looking towards the victim, looking from on until down, feeling laughed at when passing, the blink of an eye, or the touch of a hand or shoulder.			
22.	WE	21	MY	Whistling, cheering, clapping, stared	<b>Informants' Perceptions of Verbal Sexual Harassment from a Cognitive Aspect</b>			
23.	QT	20	IB	Whistling	Based on the results of the interviews that were conducted, several informants did not realise that whistling, winking, small talk			
24.	NP	21	IB	Whistling				

such as "Hey girl", "Where are you going, beautiful?", and excessive staring were verbal sexual harassment. They think that this action is normal and has happened frequently.

Informant N revealed that:

"I have never heard of verbal sexual harassment. As far as I know, sexual harassment is only physical, like touching other people's limbs. Whistling or codes like that have happened to me before, but in my opinion, it's normal; it happens often too. Every woman must have been treated like that by a man. I don't know if whistling or being disturbed like that is considered verbal sexual harassment."<sup>23</sup>

In line with N's opinion above, it turned out that informant H also had the same knowledge, but he had previously heard about the term verbal sexual harassment via the internet, such as YouTube and Facebook. H stated that:

" I've heard the term verbal sexual harassment. Like on Youtube and Facebook. But I don't care and don't care. The abuse was not physical, I don't know what form it took. I thought the "hey, girl" whistles and winks were normal because they happened so much. Even though doing that to other people is inappropriate, especially with women, the impression is that it demeans women."<sup>24</sup>

In contrast to informant A, who already knew about verbal sexual harassment, A had known about verbal sexual harassment since he was in high school and was aware of the forms of harassment. In addition, he also adds knowledge from the internet, such as Google, Facebook, and YouTube. More clearly, A explains that:

"I already knew about verbal sexual harassment from high school. At that time we were talking with teachers and

friends and then came our discussion about harassment and its forms. Then I also got information about verbal sexual harassment from the internet, such as *Google, Facebook, and YouTube*, in my opinion, this action is not good because it can disturb the comfort of other people, then the behavior must be instilled early on that this is not a joke."<sup>25</sup>

Based on the results of interviews with all informants, it can be seen that as many as seven informants had never heard of or knew about verbal sexual harassment, and four informants admitted that they had only ever heard of the term verbal sexual Based on the results of interviews with all informants, it can be seen that as many as seven informants had never heard of or knew about verbal sexual harassment, and four informants admitted that they had only ever heard of the term "verbal sexual harassment but did not understand it. Four others admit having enough understanding of verbal and sexual abuse, but not too much. The rest of the eight informants understand, always follow, and increase their knowledge about issues of sexual harassment.

After conducting observations and interviews regarding knowledge about verbal sexual harassment, the researcher conducted interviews regarding the experiences experienced by the informants regarding verbal sexual harassment. Various things were experienced by informants, such as whistling, winking, seduction, being laughed at to the touch, and also often being looked at when they were walking past people who committed acts of verbal sexual harassment.

During the interview with informant R, he explained that when he went to campus and wanted to go back to his boarding house, he received verbal sexual harassment. R stated that:

<sup>23</sup>N, Live interview, January 04, 2021

<sup>24</sup>H, Live interview, January 06, 2021

<sup>25</sup>A, Live interview, January 12, 2021

“What I experienced was being whistled, then "hi, girl", and "younger brother" while winking. It happened at the campus gate, then at the grocery store near my boarding house. Sometimes, when I want to go to campus or come home from campus, there are things that bother me. I was often disturbed near the boarding house. When they annoy, they never respond; they just don't know why they're always like that. Sometimes, when walking hand in hand with other people, someone suddenly whistles or calls. Usually, I ignore it like nothing happened; I don't even know who is interfering.”<sup>26</sup>

The same thing was experienced by L; it is not only in the campus environment but also outside the campus environment. L is the treasurer of the organization. One time, he went out with the chairman of the organisation to a bank with organisational affairs. L explained what he experienced and stated that:

“The first time I experienced it was during the third semester at the campus gate. They whistled and called Adek Adek to me, sis. Then, secondly, when I went with my UKM head to one of the banks while waiting in the queue, the chairman came close to me, sis. Even though I've moved to the end, after that, when it was running out, he suddenly held my hand and said it was cold here. I immediately reacted and put the bag that was originally behind me behind me and moved it to the front of my body. The bag had toys in it. He played with my bag toy as if he were holding my breast, sis. Since that incident, I left UKM P, Sis. I'm so scared.”

It was not only my R and L informants who received acts of verbal sexual harassment. Informants N, H, C, T, and A also received

sexual harassment in verbal forms, such as saying "Hi, girl", "Where are you going, beautiful", "Do you want my brother to take you home or not?", "Can you meet a beauty?", and "Assalamualaikum Ukhti," while laughter can be seen from the look on the face of the man who did the action.

So it can be seen from the cognitive aspect that the results of the study show that the informants' knowledge of verbal sexual harassment is still low. This is because some informants still do not think that whistling and so on is an act of verbal sexual harassment. In terms of experience, all informants have experienced verbal sexual harassment in public spaces, with various forms of harassment that have been experienced. Aside from that, there is still a lack of education-related information about verbal and sexual abuse, both on and off campus. Because of this, many female students are still unaware of what constitutes sexual verbal abuse.

### **Informants' Perceptions of Verbal Sexual Harassment from the Affective Aspect**

What is seen in the affective aspect of verbal sexual harassment is the feeling felt and the value of the verbal sexual harassment experienced by the informant. From the results of the interviews, what the informants felt was annoyed and uncomfortable. Even though it was just a joke, this action made other people feel disturbed and uncomfortable.

As expressed by informant T about his feelings when he received verbal sexual harassment. When he was teased and seduced by strangers on the street, he felt like running away. Then negative feelings arise, such as feeling anxious, afraid, and wary. More specifically, T revealed that:

"Personally, if you are disturbed or teased like that by a foreigner, you will feel bad at first. Be vigilant too. If they want to sit near us, they immediately move away. If they are standing, the person is also standing, usually looking

<sup>26</sup>A, Live interview, December 29, 2020



for a seat or looking for a safer place. Constantly worrying and afraid that something will be done or touched later. Usually, after that incident, I tell my parents or close friends. Ask for protection from them, or better yet, how later? After telling the story, I feel calmer.<sup>27</sup>

Another thing was also felt by informant A. He felt uncomfortable when he was disturbed, and he also felt nervous when he saw a group of men on the road that he was going to pass. Informant A stated that:

"First, when you are treated like that, you must be uncomfortable. I asked myself why those of us who were already wearing closed clothes were still being treated like that, except the clothes I was wearing were tight and open. Then, when I saw people gathering, I was a little nervous when they passed in front of them. Sometimes these people like to band together with their friends as a joke. In fact, their treatment is not good.<sup>28</sup>

The same feelings were also felt by informants N, R, C, H, and L. The informants felt annoyed and afraid when they experienced acts of verbal sexual harassment in public spaces. Various feelings were felt by the informants, and then the informants explained their assessment of the harassing behavior, verbal and sexual.

All informants considered that the actions taken by perpetrators of verbal sexual harassment were inappropriate for other people, both men and women. Some informants can tolerate acts of verbal sexual harassment because, for them, it is not too dangerous. Some others cannot tolerate the action because it can disturb the comfort of others.

Informant C admitted that he did not like the perpetrator's actions because he should not have committed verbal sexual harassment against strangers. C considers the importance of instilling moral values so that other people will no longer commit these acts. C stated that:

"I don't like the perpetrator's actions because they are not polite with strangers. It's also understandable because it can annoy and make other people uncomfortable. It is also important to instill moral values so that people do not verbally or sexually abuse others. But it depends on the person whether he still wants to behave like that or not, even if it's just for fun."<sup>29</sup>

In line with the statement of Informant C, Informant R also agreed that acts of verbal sexual harassment can make you mentally down. R stated that:

"An action like that can make people mentally down because it's a negative action, right? I don't like it, and I can't understand this action. That is because not everyone can fight, and not everyone dares to speak out. There are those who, when disturbed by the victim, immediately feel afraid, and there are also those who immediately fight back. We don't know a person's mentality."<sup>30</sup>

Based on the results of observations and interviews conducted with informants regarding the affective aspects of acts of verbal sexual harassment, it was found that all informants did not like the actions they experienced. Although lots of informants do not know actions related to sexual abuse verbally, these things make them feel uncomfortable, insecure, unappreciated, belittled, and harassed. Informants assessed that this action was related to the espoused moral values. If the moral values adhered to are good, then a person will not commit these actions, and vice versa. But there are still

<sup>27</sup>Q, Live interview, January 13, 2021

<sup>28</sup>A, Live interview, January 12, 2021

<sup>29</sup>C, Live interview, January 11, 2021

<sup>30</sup>R, Live interview, December 31, 2020

people who abuse, even though they already know that their actions are not good.

### **Informants' Perceptions of Verbal Sexual Harassment from a Conative Aspect**

In the conative aspect, what is seen is about acts of resistance and acts of resistance carried out by informants when they received acts of sexual harassment. There were informants who resisted and those who did not.

Informant H explained that when he was teased by strangers, he would fight back. He revealed that:

" When the incident happened at the campus intersection, I replied using my area, roughly meaning you are impudent; Why are you speaking in my ear? You are lacking roots. Then there was also a time when I was stared at by a classmate for a long time, and I felt uncomfortable with him. Then I immediately reprimanded him by saying, Why are you looking at me for a long time? You are impolite. Then the response is just smiling, sis. "<sup>31</sup>

Likewise, informant T explained that he had fought against perpetrators of verbal sexual harassment. T revealed that:

"When I was whistled, I was silent, sis, but my eyes were cynical when I saw it. Then, at the time of the incident on the bus, someone came closer to me. I immediately hit his hand, and he didn't keep quiet. Then I just stepped on his feet, and after that, he just stood up as if nothing had happened."<sup>32</sup>

Unlike H and T, informant L did not dare to put up a fight when he received verbal sexual harassment. Informant L was silent because he held back his irritation and his tears because he had never experienced this before. Informant L stated that:

"When I was disturbed, I felt like I wanted to kick, but his body was big, so I just kept quiet, Sis. I want to be angry, but I can't, so I'm just annoyed. especially the incident at UKM. I felt very upset and held back my tears because I had never been treated like that before."<sup>33</sup>

Informant N did the same thing with L. I didn't care about his seduction or whistling. Informant N explained that:

"Never fight; only if they say assalamualaikum will I answer walaikumsalam. Then, if they sing it or whistle it, I don't care about it and will pass them by."<sup>34</sup>

Based on the results of observations and interviews, it can be seen from the conative aspect that some of the informants resisted and some did not oppose the verbal sexual harassment they experienced. Reasons to fight are that they do not like the actions of the perpetrator and feel disturbed, and part of the victim knows if they have accepted action, including abuse sexually and verbally. Others chose not to fight, with the excuse that they were afraid, holding back anger, and holding back tears; These actions did not need to be ignored and were commonplace. Besides that, they also limited the knowledge of victims to accept actions including abuse and sexual, verbal, or nope.

Perception is an active process that plays a role not only in the stimulus that is perceived but also in the individual as a whole, with relevant motivational experiences and attitudes in responding to the stimulus.<sup>35</sup> This means that different individual perceptions are not only influenced by their experiences but also by their knowledge and the environment in which they live.

<sup>31</sup>H, Live interview, January 06, 2021

<sup>32</sup>Q, Live interview, January 13, 2021

<sup>33</sup>L, Live interview, January 07, 2021

<sup>34</sup>N, Live interview, January 04, 2021

<sup>35</sup>Walgito, *introduction to general psychology* ,124 .

Based on the results of observations and interviews, three concepts were understood by informants related to sexual harassment, including: First, there were still those who did not understand verbal sexual harassment because sexual harassment was only known through physical touch. Cognitively, the informants did not know about verbal sexual harassment, and it affected the affective aspect. Informants who did not understand this felt normal when they received this action. Conatively, he did not reply to the act of verbal sexual harassment because he thought it was common.

A female student who had received verbal sexual harassment but did not realise that she had become a victim due to the lack of information she received. Even though they can access information from social media that has developed, this is related to the cognitive aspect, according to Walgito, which is related to knowledge, views, and beliefs, so that it relates to how a person perceives an object.<sup>36</sup> This shows that female students did not know about verbal sexual harassment, so they still considered the actions they experienced normally.

Second, the informant did not understand the term verbal sexual harassment but understood in action that it was inappropriate to do this to other people. Cognitively, the informants did not know that the action was not right for other people. Affectively, the informant felt uncomfortable with the action, which affected the conative aspect. Informants who were dissatisfied with this action immediately confronted the perpetrators of verbal sexual harassment.

Students who do not know in terms but understand in action that it is not right cannot tolerate this action. These findings relate to the affective aspect. According to Sears, the

affective aspect is a person's readiness to react or the tendency to act toward an object.<sup>37</sup>

Third, there are those who understand verbal sexual harassment in terms of the form of the action. Cognitively, the informants already understood verbal sexual harassment and its affective and conative aspects. On the affective aspect, the informant who knew about verbal sexual harassment felt uncomfortable with the perpetrator's actions, and when the informant felt uncomfortable, he put up a fight by admonishing the perpetrator of verbal sexual harassment.

Knowledge about verbal sexual harassment is still low in the community, so this action is still considered normal. There is still the notion that verbal sexual harassment is commonplace or is seen as a joke or even a compliment, causing this to happen over and over again. If this action is still considered reasonable and normal, then it can be assumed that the behavior will commit a more dangerous crime.

The existence of acts of verbal sexual harassment disturbs women's freedom to be in public spaces such as highways, markets, tourist attractions, and campuses, which can restrict women's movements. The freedom of women to be in the public sphere seems to be restricted. For example, being unable to express yourself through the clothes you wear, being anxious and wary when walking alone, not being able to enjoy the public streets that are provided, and turning around when you see a group of men gathered somewhere.

Basically, verbal sexual harassment by the perpetrator is a form of unwanted attention by the victim, such as whistling, unwanted comments or sentences with the aim of harassing, and excessive eye contact, which are included in harassment. It's just that if, according to the values and norms adopted by the local area, it is normal, then the action does

<sup>36</sup>Walgito, 127–28.

<sup>37</sup>DO Sears, *Social Psychology* (Jakarta: Kencana, 2009), 79.

not constitute harassment. It becomes a problem when the action is not wanted by other people, and then it is categorized as verbal sexual harassment.

According to Yurika and Lestari, the impact of verbal sexual harassment on victims resulted in mental disorders. Events that interfere with mental resilience can affect a person's psychology, even though this seems normal from the outside. Individual mental resilience differs from one another. Someone who gets verbal sexual harassment too often when in a public space will feel afraid and always be wary of the people around him. As a result, a person's space for movement will be limited because of the feeling of anxiety that haunts him.

Based on the results of observations and interviews that have been conducted, it can be concluded that the perceptions of UIN Imam Bonjol Padang female students towards verbal sexual harassment are different. This can be seen from the knowledge and understanding of informants regarding verbal sexual harassment, which is still low. Not all informants saw this as a form of harassment.

Meanwhile, one of the arguments that protects women from acts of sexual harassment is QS Al-Isra': 32. In Al-Mishbah's interpretation, it is explained regarding the verse regarding the prohibition of approaching something that stimulates the soul or lust to do it. The prohibition to approach contains the meaning of a prohibition not to fall into the seduction of something that has the potential to lead to the step of doing so. As for violations that do not have a strong stimulus, usually, the prohibition is directed at the act, not a prohibition against approaching it.

### **Conclusion**

For female students at UIN Imam Bonjol Padang, it was found that there are three aspects that can explain this perception, namely cognitive aspects, affective aspects, and conative aspects.

On the cognitive aspect, it was found that all informants had experienced verbal sexual harassment such as whistling, comments, seduction, and winking. However, some informants still did not know and realized that they had become victims of verbal sexual harassment.

In the affective aspect, the informant felt normal, was alert when walking alone, was disturbed by the perpetrator's actions, was afraid, and felt annoyed with the perpetrator. Some informants could still understand the actions they received, but some could not because they were inappropriate for other people.

On the conative aspect, some informants resisted, and some did not resist when they received acts of sexual harassment verbally. Actions of resistance can be in the form of reprimanding, replying to the perpetrator's words, and giving a cynical glance to the perpetrator. Some informants did not oppose acts of verbal sexual harassment such as ignoring the perpetrator, pretending not to hear, holding back tears, and holding the impression of the perpetrator.

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