

STUDY ON THE DYNAMICS OF CHANGES IN A HOUSEHOLD DURING COVID-19 IN 34 PROVINCES IN INDONESIA

**National Commission on Violence against Women (Komnas Perempuan)
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Executive Summary

The Government of Indonesia has issued a number of policies in response to emergency situation related to the COVID-19 Pandemic, including policies on social and physical distancing, Work from Home (KdR), and Learning from Home (BdR). These policies have various impacts that are unique to women in the context of their position in the family and as workers.¹ The World Economic Forum (2020) states that although the number of male mortality is higher than women in COVID-19 case, women's social and economic vulnerability is higher. This is because there are more women as health workers, responsible for care, and experienced double burden on domestic work during a pandemic. Meanwhile, in Indonesian socio-cultural construction, the position of decision making in the family and the community is still mostly held by men in various ways, including decisions in the household. Conservative religious understanding which still believes that domestic work and care are women's job, worsens women in this pandemic situation.

The KdR policy is feared that it will result in the loss reduced family income and therefore it can impact on anxiety and also trigger domestic violence. This is made worse by the many victim handling services reducing their type of services, changing the way to access their services, and eliminate / shorten their operational period. The BdR policy (Learning from Home) can mean delegating teaching duties to parents, especially mothers. This becomes a burden on its own considering that the school does not provide sufficient guidance for parents to assist their children in learning. Problems are also added with the additional spending to use information and communication technology amid the limited family financial condition. When domestic works are piled up on women, and nutrition intake is limited, such condition can cause physical and psychological exhaustion to women and they are increasingly vulnerable to being infected with COVID-19. KdR and BdR policies can also increase the vulnerability of women domestic workers (PRT). Social restrictions do not apply to domestic workers as they continue to work without protection from COVID-19 transmission.

Based on the potential vulnerabilities mentioned above, Komnas Perempuan conducted a short study on the Dynamics of Changes in a Household During the COVID-19 Period. This study discusses several related matters 1) Changes in workload in a household and care that occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic; 2) Violence experienced by women in Private Domain (domestic violence) during the COVID-19 pandemic period; and 3) Fulfillment of access to available services; 4) Impact of Work and Study from Home policies and Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB); and 5) Vulnerable Groups.

¹Komnas Perempuan Press Release: "Urgency of Human Rights Perspectives with Special Attention to Vulnerability of Women in Handling COVID" downloaded from the website www.komnasperempuan.go.id

Method in collecting data used an open-ended online survey, which also has its weakness, that it is not being able to determine a certain target and a certain number of respondents. As a result, for instance, when viewed by gender and origin of domicile, the data looks unbalanced. In addition, this study is limited to those who can fill in the data online and have an adequate internet network. The number of respondents in this survey were 2,285 people, dominated by women from Java aged 31-50 years, with bachelor's degree (S1) / equivalent, with income of 2-5 million Rupiah, married, had children, worked full time in the formal sector, and had no vulnerable family members. Table 1 shows in detail the profile of respondents of this study:

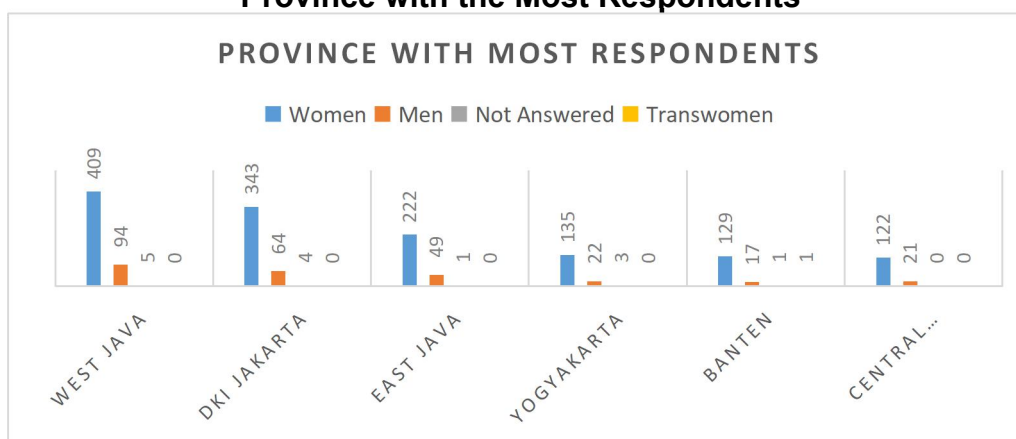
**Table 1:
Profile of Respondents (N = 2,285)**

NO	Aspects	Sub-Aspects	Women (N = 1,885)	Men (N = 379)	No Answer (N = 19)	Transwomen (N = 2)	Total
1	Age	Under 18 years old	0	0	1	0	1
		18-30 years old	384	60	7	1	452
		31-40 years old	638	113	2	1	754
		41-50 years old	568	129	5	0	702
		51-60 years old	247	59	4	0	310
		Beyond 60 years old	48	18	0	0	66
2	Education	Uneducated	1	0	0	0	1
		Primary School / Equivalent	9	2	0	0	11
		Junior Secondary / Equivalent	30	1	1	0	32
		Senior Secondary / Equivalent	273	34	2	0	309
		Associate Degree / Equivalent	133	20	3	0	156
		Bachelor's degree / Equivalent	874	177	6	2	1,059
		Master's Degree	565	145	7	0	717
3	Income	Not Answered	343	19	1	0	363
		Less than 2 Million Rupiah	347	41	4	0	392
		2 - 5 Million Rupiah	519	122	4	1	646
		5 - 10 Million Rupiah	384	99	3	1	487
		More than 10 Million Rupiah	292	98	7	0	397
4	Marital Status	Married	1,546	331	12	1	1,890
		Not Married	339	48	7	1	395
5	Work Status	Part Time	534	94	7	1	636
		Full Time	1,009	259	11	1	1,280
		Not Answered	342	26	1	0	369
6	Work Sector	Formal	1,098	274	11	1	1,384
		Informal	450	84	7	1	542

		Not Answered	337	21	1	0	359
7	Household Care	No	204	62	3	0	269
		Yes	1,656	313	15	2	1,986
		Not Answered	25	4	1	0	30
8	Have child / children	No	373	70	6	1	450
		Yes	1,512	309	13	1	1,835
9	Number of Children	1 - 2 children	981	183	8	1	1173
		3 - 5 children	656	161	6	1	824
		More than 5 children	116	14	2	0	132
		Not relevant	132	21	3	0	156
10	Vulnerable Family	No	1,278	282	12	2	1,574
		Yes	607	97	7	0	711

This online survey has succeeded in gathering respondents from across 34 provinces in Indonesia. Despite all provinces are represented, most respondents are still mainly from Java, namely West Java, DKI Jakarta, East Java, Yogyakarta, Banten and Central Java, with most respondents coming from West Java. Table 2 shows the six provinces with the highest number of respondents from areas with the highest distribution of COVID-19 cases in Indonesia. Therefore, the results of the survey's analysis may not represent conditions outside of Java, especially in eastern Indonesia.

Table 2:
Province with the Most Respondents



The survey result has significantly revealed the following findings:

1. Changes in Domestic Workload and Care During Pandemic Period of COVID-19

- The majority of respondents claimed that they are carer of households (Women 88%; Men 83%), 66% of which reported that the burden of household work was increased. The number of women doing domestic work for more than 3 hours is almost four times that of men, transwomen, and respondents who choose not to identify their sex. There are 1 in 3 respondents who reported that the increase in household work stressed them.
- 70% of female respondents answered that domestic work, especially cooking and washing clothes, has increased significantly since COVID-19. Meanwhile, only about 49% of male respondents answered that their household work

increased. The burden of domestic work during COVID-19 is generally borne by women, compared to men.

- Most respondents (57%) reported that their children helped with household chores. There are about 22% of respondents who stated that both boys and girls helped in household chores. The number of children does not affect the level of stress during COVID-19, but more children means that spending increases. Nearly 75% of respondents who have more than 3 children reported that household spending is increasing.
- The majority (72%) of respondents reported that spending has increased during the COVID-19 pandemic, and only 1% reported an increased income. This spending burden also worsen with the additional costs to purchase internet quota for studying and working from home, as well as for other technological facilities such as laptops or mobile phones that are sufficient for online work and study needs. Another problem is that the price of food is experiencing an increase in the market, which pushed spending upwards than usual.
- There are about 40% of respondents expressed concern about losing their jobs. The same expression was experienced by students who are studying, where approximately 30% of them have also expressed that they are worried and very worried in getting optimal access to learning.

2. Violence in the Private Domain (Domestic Violence) During the Pandemic Period COVID-19

- Since the COVID-19 pandemic, 1 in 3 respondents reported that relations with their partners were more harmonious and nearly 40% of respondents reported that they had not experienced any changes. There are approximately 10.3% (236) respondents reported that their relationship with their partners are getting tense, where those who have married are more vulnerable (12%) than those who are not married (2.5%).
- When viewed from the age of the respondents, the age group of 31-40 years old is the group that mostly answered that their relationship with their partner has become more tense since the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, if we look closely at the respondent's income, there are almost twice more respondents with income below 5 Million Rupiah who stated that their relation with their partners have been getting more tense since the COVID-19 pandemic, compared to the group of respondents who have income above 5 Million Rupiah, which is 122 people. This might indicate an association between certain socioeconomic classes and the level of harmony in the household during COVID-19.
- Based on the type of violence, women experience more types of violence than men. During the COVID-19 pandemic, in general, psychological, and economic violence were more commonly experienced by respondents than other types of violence. For psychological violence, 15%, or 289 women, answered they they sometimes experiencing it, and 4%, or 66 women, answered that they are often experiencing it. Meanwhile, for the same violence, only 11% or 41 men, who answered that they are sometimes experiencing it, and only 2 people answered they are often experiencing it. For economic violence, 7% of female respondents answered that they are experiencing it occasionally, or equivalent to 135 people, and 3% answered that they are experiencing it often, or equivalent to 472 people. Meanwhile the

percentage of men who answered 'sometimes' were less than 5%, or the equivalent of 14 people, and those who answered 'often' were 4 people, out of a total of 379 male respondents.

- Types of violence against other family members follows the pattern of types of violence against oneself, where psychological and economic violence were seen more often than physical and sexual violence. As many as 15% or 292 female respondents, and 12% or 46 male respondents, mentioned that there was psychological violence against other family members at home, whether it happens sometimes or often. Meanwhile, as many as 5% or 102 female respondents, and 5% or 19 male respondents, mentioned that there was economic violence against other family members at home, whether it happens sometimes or often.
- Children were identified as the family members who experience the most violence at home, followed by female partners and mothers / mother in-laws. Partners were identified as the perpetrators of violence both toward themselves, and against other family members. The combination of both partner and children were chosen by respondents as the second-most perpetrator of violence, followed by mothers / mother in-laws for violence against themselves. Meanwhile, fathers / father in-laws were mentioned as the second-most perpetrators of violence against other people after partners.
- During COVID-19, the frequency of violence occurred more frequently against women (8%; 144 people) than against men (4%; 16 people), married, and within the age range of 31-40 years old, with income under 5 million Rupiah. 179 female respondents answered that during COVID-19, the frequency of violence experienced by other family members became more frequent.
- In the formal sector workers group, 6% of respondents answered that violence occurred more frequently during COVID-19, while among the informal sector workers group was 11%. Those numbers were coming from respondents with income below 5 million Rupiah, where 44% are formal sector workers and 75% are informal sector workers. When associated with income groups that are more vulnerable to violence, informal workers have a higher vulnerability.
- Since the COVID-19 pandemic, violence has become more frequent to groups with increased spending and for families with income of less than 5 million Rupiah. For the record, 85% of those who responded that violence occurred often were respondents with increased spending during COVID-19. This result reinforces the assumption that economic factor is one of the driving forces of violence.
- For 100% of respondents who answered that they were experiencing an increased physical and sexual violence, and for 75% of respondents who answered that they are experiencing an increased psychological and economic violence during COVID-19, they also answered that they were experiencing an increased spending during a pandemic.

3. Fulfillment of Service Access

- Overall, for both respondents who experienced violence and those who did not, around 14% of respondents or 316 people, answered that they just do not say a word or did nothing when experiencing violence in the form of physical, psychological, sexual, and economic violence. Meanwhile, 13% or 296 respondents chose to tell their relatives, friends, or closest neighbors. A total of 10% or 223 respondents chose to report to institutions providing violence

complaints against women. However, of victims who report more and more frequent violence during COVID-19, there were about 88% of women, 10% men, 2% other genders / did not answer. And from those numbers, there were about 80.3% who did not report to the service provider.

- The option to stay silent, or chose to informing their relatives, friends and / or neighbors, were choices for women whether they are married or unmarried, with higher percentage for married women amounting to approximately 14%. The interesting thing is that those attitude were dominated by respondents with a minimum educational background of bachelor's degrees to post-graduates, and if totaled, the sum reaches 78% for those who stay silent, and 77% for those who replied to inform only their closest relatives.
- This confirms the assumption that the number of violence against women is an iceberg phenomenon, in which the existing data and numbers available are only reported data. The respondents' answers could worsen with the enactment of PSBB where the intensity of victims being together with violence perpetrators in a house also increased, which could result in the fear of reporting. Meanwhile, irrelevant answers were high, at about 35% or 814 respondents, because the number of respondents who filled out the survey stated that they did not suffer violence during KdR and PSBB policies.
- A total of 68.8% or 1,573 respondents did not store their complaints service contacts. This data shows that both men and women do not have enough awareness in terms of managing risks of having violence.
- Altogether, there were 172 respondents (136 people including women) who answered in having difficulties to access the complaint services. In an open-ended question, it was found that difficulties in accessing this service was due to technological literacy issues. Technological facilities and infrastructures, such as mobile phones or laptop / desktop computers, as well existing and available technology mastery capacity and the procurement of internet services and a stable internet network, were inadequate. This situation requires an attention in this pandemic situation. The difficulty to access the service was also experienced by groups of respondents who were affected by the increased spending during the pandemic, reaching 8% or 138 respondents.

4. The impact of Work from Home (KdR), Study from Home (BdR), and Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB) policies.

- About 83% of respondents answered that Working and Study from Home, and Large-Scale Social Restriction (PSBB) policies, can be either favorable or harmful. Those who only answer favorably to those policies were about 9%, while those answer harmful were about 6%. The other 2% did not answer. There were 8% male respondents and 86% female respondents who felt harmed by the policies.
- Groups of 31 – 40 years old and less than 2 million Rupiah have stated similar thing: that social restriction and work from home policies tend to harm them.
- A group with earnings of more than 5 million Rupiah tends to consider that the policy of working and studying from home is beneficial, while groups with earnings under 5 million Rupiah tend to assume that the policy is detrimental.
- Respondents in the open-ended question stated that the PSBB policy is not optimal and the government is still not assertive enough in implementing the policy. In addition to the assertiveness of work and study from home policies

and sanctions for those breaking them, respondents further sought for economic assistance for poor groups to be distributed evenly with clear data and transparent budgets.

- Another important policy that requires government's attention, is the policy related to child-friendly information and technology, and child-friendly education during the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, effective and efficient learning time with not too much homework; optimal learning access in the form of technology guidance, internet quota subsidies and adequate internet network, as well as the attention to children's eyes' health factor because they often engage in front of a laptop or desktop monitor. Other policy that needs to be considered is the mental health policies for those studying and working at home. Especially for female respondents, there are specific recommendations regarding the needs of safe houses and the ease of accessibility to institutions working on violence.

5. Vulnerable Groups

Of a total of 2,285 respondents, 70% reported having no vulnerable family members (for example, elderly people, people with disabilities, etc.) in their homes, while the remaining 30% reported that they have. There are a number of important findings concerning vulnerable family members from the aspects of income, spending, violence and policy impacts, namely:

- There is no tendency on the distribution of vulnerable family members in any group of incomes.
- Families with vulnerable groups tend to experience violence more often than families without vulnerable members. Respondents who have vulnerable family members experienced almost double the psychological and economic violence compared to respondents who had no vulnerable groups during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is seen from the increased percentage of respondents' spending, and a reduced income on families with vulnerable members.

Conclusion

1. The COVID-19 pandemic period spur changes in household and caring workloads, spending tends to swell, and worryness increased about losing jobs and accessing optimal learning.
2. Women are faced with very distinctive impacts because of the gender role embedded in them, mainly because of the belief that domestic work is the biggest and foremost responsibility imposed on women.
3. The number of women experiencing additional domestic work of more than 3 hours during COVID-19 were four times more likely than men, transwomen, and respondents who did not identify their identity. This is most likely due to the additional task of cooking and accompanying children to study at home, which is usually done at school.
4. Stay at home policy forces women to learn online learning technologies for their children. COVID-19 pandemic also made mothers lose their support system, such as domestic workers, in-laws, or other close family members, to help them fulfill the needs of family's food with adequate nutritional intake. As a result, 1 in 3

female respondents stated that the increased household work has led to a rise in stress levels.

5. Domestic violence remained in the COVID-19 pandemic and was dominated by psychological and economic violence. Groups vulnerable to domestic violence are women, those within 31-40 years old, those who are married, those with income less than 5 million Rupiah, and those living in provinces identified as the highest number of COVID-19 cases in Indonesia, namely West Java, East Java and DKI Jakarta.
6. Partners were cited as perpetrators who did the most violence against themselves, and against other family members. While children were identified as victims of domestic violence.
7. Households with increased spendings have more chance of experiencing frequent violence, especially physical and sexual violence, indicating that economic issues have the potential to spur domestic violence
8. Attempts to report violence to a service institution decreased in the COVID-19 pandemic due to attitudes in saying nothing, or informing only relatives, friends and / or neighbors (whoever the woman chooses). This is true for those who are either married or unmarried, or for respondents with a minimum education background of bachelor's to master's degree. Another point is the still low public awareness in storing complaints service contacts.
9. Technological literacy and economic problems during COVID-19 pandemic are intertwined and become a driving factor in accessing complaints services, work and study from home problems. Unstable internet network, a budget for Internet quota and the usage of existing technology, are often problems that arises during the COVID-19 pandemic. Indonesian society is still not ready with online technology and technology infrastructure is not yet available evenly, including its data security, in 34 provinces in Indonesia.

Recommendations

The results of an online survey on changes in household dynamics during the COVID-19 period shows that groups vulnerable to domestic violence are women, those within 31-40 years old, those who are married, those with income less than 5 million Rupiah, and those living in provinces identified as the highest number of COVID-19 cases. Based on this, then the following recommendations are made:

1. Ensuring policies regarding the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, which includes the implementation of the New Normal policies, to include more comprehensive considerations and breakthroughs towards the vulnerabilities faced by certain groups in society, especially women. In addition to health aspects, these policies need to consider social, cultural, and economic aspects, technology and information, mental health, and integrate prevention of violence against women.
2. Taking into consideration that women are the most affected group, since the culture constructs that a household is a woman's domestic task, it is necessary to intensify programs that converts conservative and misogynistic thinking towards progressive and egalitarian thinking. In addition, special assistance schemes are required for women. This economic assistance should cover assistance of basic needs, while at the same time providing creative work

opportunities that can be done at home without the lost of their existing job, especially for those working in informal sector. This economic assistance should also be identified, well documented and transparent, so that women who are head of families, workers in the informal sector, those with income of less than 5 million Rupiah, can be target of affirmation actions in provision of economic assistance recipient list.

3. The government needs to immediately prepare sufficient technology and information to the public and ensure that the people of Indonesia have access and literacy towards technology with adequate infrastructure. This includes Internet network, data security in social media, a sufficient laptop / desktop / mobile phone, and the price of Internet quota that is affordable by members of the public.
4. Ensure the provision of services are available and easily accessible to victims of violence who will complain their cases. Attention should also be provided to the availability of technology and information, funds, and access to a friendly and safe complaint during the COVID-19 pandemic.
5. Dissemination of information about the services available and the rights of women victims of violence, especially in the context of domestic rights, need to be expanded and reproduced. Government mass media such as RRI and National and Local TVRI, can be utilized to sensitize state-provided structured complaint services throughout the country by paying attention to the needs of vulnerable groups of disabilities.

Closing

Komnas Perempuan extend its gratitude to all respondents who had taken the time and the attention to fill this survey and became an important part in the fulfillment of women's rights. We also convey our gratitude to MAMPU program that has provided their support for this research.

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