

“Gender-Based Cyber Violence: A Challenge to Gender Equality in Indonesia”

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“Gender-Based Cyber Violence: A Challenge to Gender Equality in Indonesia” will henceforth be known as “the article” for ease of writing. The article established the extent at which gender-based violence corrupted Indonesian society despite their efforts for gender-equality. It found that women, girls, and member of the queer community were more susceptible to gender-based cyber violence, especially in fields surrounding social media, chat rooms, and online dating platforms. Cyber-harassment, cyber-grooming, infringement of privacy, hacking, and online defamation marginalized women and further widened the gap between gender-inequality and gender-equality. With the rise of gender-based cyber violence, many organizations have developed laws, platforms, and online activist groups to protect women and girls against cyber violence.

The article presented a topic that is relevant today and is heavily influenced by the way people act, or the way they choose to act, in the presence of another individual. In relation to the principles of social science, the article demonstrated different elements from objectivity to determinism. After reading the article, the determinism idiographic model appears to be more relevant. Women for centuries have been marginalized, and most individuals were raised with this mindset. By having access to the internet, it becomes increasingly clear how wide the line is between equality and inequality in genders. Additionally, the author kept their article short and simple, demonstrating parsimony. From the perspective of an outsider, it wasn't difficult to follow along and was kept short and precise while still producing an evidence-backed conclusion.

The article posed a research question aiming to uncover if women and girls are more susceptible to gender-based cyber violence than men and boys. It also aimed to understand if that gender-based cyber violence widened the gender inequality presented in Indonesia. The author hypothesized that women and girls are in fact more susceptible to gender-based cyber violence which resulted in increased gender-inequality.

The article came to its conclusion by using studies and public Indonesian documents that contained observational research, surveys, and literature review. The most common research method the author exhibited was archival research by accessing records which contained previous research data. This data was often in the form of surveys done determining how a group felt about online violence and if they were victim to such violence. However, by solely focusing on this kind of data, it was possible that the author missed out on data. The best forms of research are ones that come from a mixed-media research approach which utilizes good mixture of field and archival research.

One topic that directly relates to the article and was heavily discussed in one of the discussion boards comes to mind: the one about determinism. In the discussion, many people pointed out that crime is now more prevalent than ever because of the internet. With the internet becoming more and more accessible, it's possible to remain completely anonymous. This anonymity has its perks, but as a result, it often encourages violent or criminal behavior. People believe they can get away with their behavior because they're backed by anonymity, unlike the real world where it's easy to get caught. Because of this, more and more people will continue to

pursue crime and violence on the internet. Within the class we also discussed topics concerning revenge porn, which the article addressed. According to the article, women are often sexually harassed and abused, and pictures and videos of this abuse are posted to embarrass or defame the women they're posting about. This is a behavior that is commonly analyzed because it's easy to accomplish and is detrimental to the individual. Finally, a topic that was discussed in our most recent class session was the individual motives for committing crime. It becomes clear that most of the motives for gender-based cyber violence could stem from the entertainment of the individuals' reactions to revenge or boredom.

The article focuses on the harm caused to a group of individuals who were once heavily, and in some cases still are, marginalized: women, girls, and women who are members of the queer community. Women are still attempting to achieve total equality after years of inequality. Even now, despite the efforts to improve equality among gender, there are those who are raised with inherent biases that widen the gap. The author also makes it a point to say that "developed nations like the United States have failed to address online gender-based violence" (pg. 102), making this an issue that is not bound to Indonesian society.

By creating this article, the author is making the reader aware of the harsh differences in gender-based cyber violence and the affect that the violence can have on the affected groups. The author recognized the different types of cyber violence that affects women and girls, and how that violence further marginalizes them. They continued by recognizing different movements that are in affect to help support women and girls, as well as concluding with several methods the Indonesian government could utilize.

Overall, I believe the article offers a great perspective on gender-based cyber violence but I also find that the article is lacking in multiple different aspects. For instance, the author appears to have an inherent bias. Before the article really took place, they made it clear that they believed women were more susceptible to cyber violence before offering their hypothesis. Additionally, there was a lack of a proper research question. The article was put together with the clear intent to share how women and girls are more susceptible to cyber violence. Nonetheless, the author makes multiple clear points using research statistics to prove that those opinions are fact. It's a common issue that needs to be addressed which is why I find it to be heavily relevant and applicable to today's times.

References

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