



## Why Are Wives Vulnerable? An Analysis of Domestic Violence in Manado

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### **Abstract**

Domestic violence against wives constitutes a violation of human rights that continues to occur frequently, despite its regulation under Law Number 23 of 2004 on the Elimination of Domestic Violence. This study aims to analyze the prevalence of physical violence against wives in Manado City and to identify the dominant factors influencing it. The research employs an empirical juridical method with a descriptive-analytical approach, utilizing questionnaires and interviews. The findings indicate that the prevalence of physical violence is 4.44% within the general population and is absent among highly educated women. The dominant factors include low levels of education, economic dependence, unequal power relations, and patriarchal cultural norms. It is concluded that physical violence within the household is a complex phenomenon; therefore, a comprehensive strategy is required, encompassing women's empowerment and the strengthening of legal protection mechanisms.

**Keywords:** *Violence, Physical Abuse, Domestic Violence, and Power Relations*

### **Abstrak**

Kekerasan dalam rumah tangga terhadap istri merupakan bentuk pelanggaran hak asasi manusia yang masih sering terjadi meskipun telah diatur dalam Undang-Undang Nomor 23 Tahun 2004 tentang Penghapusan Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis tingkat kekerasan fisik terhadap istri di Kota Manado serta mengidentifikasi faktor-faktor dominan yang mempengaruhinya. Metode yang digunakan adalah yuridis empiris dengan pendekatan deskriptif-analitis melalui kuesioner dan wawancara. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa tingkat kekerasan fisik sebesar 4,44% pada masyarakat umum dan tidak ditemukan pada perempuan berpendidikan tinggi. Faktor dominan meliputi rendahnya pendidikan, ketergantungan ekonomi, relasi kuasa yang tidak seimbang, dan budaya patriarki. Disimpulkan bahwa kekerasan fisik dalam rumah tangga cukup kompleks, sehingga diperlukan strategi komprehensif melalui pemberdayaan perempuan dan penguatan perlindungan hukum.

**Kata kunci:** *Kekerasan, Fisik, Rumah Tangga, Relasi Kuasa*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Violence against women remains a persistent social and humanitarian problem of global concern. This phenomenon occurs not only in public spaces but also within the domestic sphere, which should represent the safest environment for every individual, particularly women as wives. Domestic violence (DV) against wives constitutes a concrete manifestation of unequal power relations within the family, often rooted in social, cultural, and economic constructs that position women in subordinate roles.<sup>1</sup> In practice, such violence affects not only the physical condition of victims but also generates long-term psychological, social, and economic consequences.

Historically, domestic violence has frequently been regarded as a private matter, inappropriate for external intervention, including by the state.<sup>2</sup> This perspective has contributed to the underreporting of cases and the tendency for such matters to be resolved informally, often without adequate legal protection for victims. However, developments in contemporary legal thought have shifted this paradigm, recognizing domestic violence as a violation of human rights and an affront to human dignity. Within this framework, the state bears the obligation to provide protection, ensure justice, and prosecute perpetrators effectively.

In Indonesia, the state's commitment to addressing domestic violence is reflected in the enactment of Law Number 23 of 2004 on the Elimination of Domestic Violence (UU PKDRT). This legislation represents a significant milestone in the national legal system, as it explicitly regulates various forms of domestic violence, including physical, psychological, and sexual abuse, as well as domestic neglect. Moreover, the law establishes a legal foundation for prevention, victim protection, and law enforcement. As such, it functions not only as a legal instrument but also as an embodiment of the values of Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution in safeguarding citizens' rights.

Nevertheless, empirical evidence indicates that cases of domestic violence, particularly physical violence against wives, remain prevalent and, in some regions, are increasing. This trend suggests that existing regulations have not yet achieved a substantial reduction in such incidents. One contributing factor is the persistence of patriarchal cultural norms that position men as dominant within the household, thereby enabling acts of violence as a form of control over women. Additionally, economic constraints, low levels of education, and limited legal awareness further contribute to the prevalence of domestic violence.

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<sup>1</sup> Israpil Israpil, "Budaya Patriarkhi Dan Kekerasan Terhadap Perempuan," *Jurnal Pusaka: Media Kajian Dan Pemikiran Islam* 5, no. 2 (2018): 111–23, <https://doi.org/10.35897/ps.v5i2.177>.

<sup>2</sup> Dame Arta Harianja and Debora Debora, "Upaya Perlindungan Hukum Terhadap Korban Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga Berdasarkan Undang-Undang Nomor 23 Tahun 2004," *Journal of Education Religion Humanities and Multidisciplinary* 2, no. 2 (2024): 1450–59, <https://doi.org/10.57235/jerumi.v2i2.4437>; Yeni Huriyani, "Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga (KDRT): Persoalan Privat Yang Jadi Persoalan Publik," *Jurnal Legislasi Indonesia* 5, no. 3 (2018): 75–86, <https://doi.org/10.54629/jli.v5i3.299>.

Physical violence within the household exhibits distinct characteristics compared to other forms of violence, as its impacts are often directly observable in the form of injuries, wounds, or even death.<sup>3</sup> Accordingly, examining physical violence is essential for developing a more concrete understanding of the severity and patterns of domestic violence. Furthermore, identifying the most influential contributing factors represents a strategic step toward formulating more effective, evidence-based prevention policies.

Manado City, characterized by complex social dynamics, provides a relevant context for examining this issue. The relatively high number of reported domestic violence cases in the area suggests the presence of structural problems requiring in-depth analysis. This study is therefore important not only for assessing the extent of physical violence but also for identifying its dominant underlying factors, thereby providing a foundation for the development of policies that are more responsive to the needs of victims.

The phenomenon of domestic violence (DV), particularly physical violence against wives, has received significant attention in legal, social, and criminological scholarship. Conceptually, prior studies demonstrate that domestic violence is no longer understood solely as a private matter; rather, it has evolved into a public issue closely associated with human rights violations and gender-based discrimination. This shift is consistent with the framework of Law Number 23 of 2004 on the Elimination of Domestic Violence (PKDRT Law), which underscores the state's responsibility for prevention, victim protection, and the prosecution of perpetrators.

Research by Dwiyantri Winowoda emphasizes that a primary cause of domestic violence is patriarchal culture, which positions men as the dominant actors in domestic relations. From a socio-cultural perspective, such dominance generates social legitimacy for the use of violence by husbands against wives. In addition to cultural factors, this study identifies economic hardship, unemployment, alcohol abuse, and a history of familial violence as contributing factors. From a policy standpoint, it further finds that domestic violence cases are often addressed through non-penal approaches (e.g., mediation) for minor offenses and penal approaches for more serious cases, reflecting a degree of flexibility in law enforcement.<sup>4</sup>

Similarly, research by Karenina Aulery Putri Wardhani examines legal protection for female victims of domestic violence during the investigative stage. The findings indicate that individual characteristics, intimate partner dynamics, economic conditions, and socio-cultural factors contribute to the occurrence of violence. The study also highlights the critical roles of law enforcement officials, medical personnel, and judicial

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<sup>3</sup> Azizi Zuhaira et al., "Analisis Dampak Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga Terhadap Kesehatan Mental Korban," *Menulis: Jurnal Penelitian Nusantara* 1, no. 8 (2025): 23–27, <https://doi.org/10.59435/menulis.v1i8.539>; Syamsuddin Syamsuddin and Muhammad Sadik, *Teori Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga*, 1, no. 1 (2024): 42–50.

<sup>4</sup> Dwiyantri Winowoda, "Kebijakan Penanggulangan Kejahatan Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga Di Kota Manado," *Lex Crimen* 4, no. 4 (2015): 22–29.

institutions in ensuring victim protection. Nonetheless, significant challenges persist, particularly regarding victims' access to justice and their willingness to report incidents.<sup>5</sup>

Research by Pipin Dian Agustiani focuses on the normative dimension by comparing sanctions for physical violence under the Domestic Violence Law with those under Islamic jurisprudence (*fiqh jinayah*). The study concludes that, under Indonesian positive law, physical violence against a wife constitutes a criminal offense punishable by imprisonment or fines, whereas under Islamic law it is categorized as a *ta'zir* offense. This comparison contributes to understanding the normative legitimacy of prohibiting domestic violence from both national and Islamic legal perspectives.<sup>6</sup>

Furthermore, Karini demonstrates that although the Domestic Violence Law has shifted the conceptualization of domestic violence from the private to the public sphere, its implementation continues to face substantial obstacles. These include limited public awareness, entrenched patriarchal norms, and inadequate legal infrastructure. The study emphasizes the importance of strengthening access to justice through the provision of legal services, legal literacy initiatives for vulnerable groups, and effective oversight mechanisms.<sup>7</sup>

In addition, Ninik Rahayu highlights the significance of the Domestic Violence Law as a legal breakthrough in addressing the increasing incidence of domestic violence. However, the study finds that its implementation remains suboptimal due to cultural barriers, limited application in judicial practice, and the absence of a strong deterrent effect on perpetrators.<sup>8</sup>

More recent research by Michael Mauliutus Silitonga et al. indicates that law enforcement against domestic violence perpetrators includes both principal and additional criminal sanctions, although its implementation remains limited.<sup>9</sup> This is corroborated by findings from Muhammad Arif al-Asyari and Muhammad Sifa' F. Yulianis, which show that legal protection for victims is pursued through both preventive and repressive measures but continues to face constraints such as limited

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<sup>5</sup> Karenina Aulery Putri Wardhani, "Perlindungan Hukum Terhadap Perempuan Korban Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga (KDRT) Pada Tingkat Penyidikan Berdasarkan Undang-Undang No. 23 Tahun 2004 Tentang Penghapusan Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga (UUPKDRT)," *Jurnal Riset Ilmu Hukum* 1, no. 1 (2021): 21–31, <https://doi.org/10.29313/jrih.v1i1.70>.

<sup>6</sup> Pipin Dian Agustiani, "Sanksi Bagi Pelaku Tindak Pidana Kekerasan Fisik Terhadap Istri Dalam Pasal 44 UU No. 23 Tahun 2004 Tentang PKDRT Perspektif Fiqh Jinayah" (Universitas Islam Negeri Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung, 2012), <https://digilib.uinsgd.ac.id/2294/>.

<sup>7</sup> Eti Karini, "Kekerasan Fisik Dalam Rumah Tangga Menurut KUHP Dan Undang-Undang Nomor 23 Tahun 2004 Tentang Penghapusan Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga," *Jurnal Kepastian Hukum Dan Keadilan* 5, no. 1 (2023): 75–88, <https://doi.org/10.32502/khk.v5i1.7969>.

<sup>8</sup> Ninik Rahayu, "Undang-Undang Nomor 23 Tahun 2004 Tentang Penghapusan Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga Dan upaya Pemenuhan Hak-Hak Korban," *Jurnal Legislasi Indonesia* 5, no. 3 (2008): 69–74.

<sup>9</sup> Michael Mauliutus Silitonga et al., "Penegakan Hukum Tindak Pidana Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga Berdasarkan Undang – Undang Nomor 23 Tahun 2004 Di Pengadilan Negeri Brebes," *Honeste Vivere* 33, no. 2 (2023): 161–84, <https://doi.org/10.55809/hv.v33i2.256>.

facilities, restricted access to services, and suboptimal performance of law enforcement institutions.<sup>10</sup>

Moreover, research by Nugraha et al. confirms that law enforcement efforts in domestic violence cases remain ineffective, as reflected in the persistently high incidence rates. The study further identifies patriarchal cultural norms as a fundamental and deeply entrenched root cause of the problem.<sup>11</sup>

Existing scholarship has largely concentrated on normative frameworks, legal protection, and general law enforcement mechanisms in addressing domestic violence, without specifically examining the prevalence and dominant determinants of physical violence against wives within particular local contexts. This study offers a novel contribution by adopting an empirical approach that focuses on measuring the prevalence of physical violence and identifying its most significant contributing factors in Manado City, thereby providing a contextualized and field-based analysis.

This study aims to provide a comprehensive examination of domestic physical violence against wives as a violation of human rights and a form of gender-based discrimination. Specifically, the study seeks to:

- 1) analyze the prevalence of domestic physical violence against wives in Manado City, with reference to the classifications set forth in Law Number 23 of 2004 on the Elimination of Domestic Violence; and
- 2) identify and analyze the dominant factors influencing the occurrence of physical violence against wives, including socio-cultural and economic conditions, power relations within the household, and the individual characteristics of both perpetrators and victims.

## 2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study employs an empirical legal approach to examine the phenomenon of domestic violence against wives in Manado City, emphasizing the relationship between legal norms and social reality. The research adopts a descriptive-analytical method, aimed at systematically describing the prevalence of violence and analyzing its dominant causal factors.

The data consist of both primary and secondary sources. Primary data were obtained through in-depth interviews with victims, law enforcement officials, medical personnel, and relevant service institutions, as well as through field observations.

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<sup>10</sup> Muhammad Arif al Asyari and Muhammad Sifa' F. Yulianis, *Perlindungan Hukum Bagi Istri Sebagai Korban Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga (KDRT) Menurut Undang-Undang Nomor 23 Tahun 2004 Tentang Penghapusan Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga*, 1, no. 7 (2024): 56–67.

<sup>11</sup> Ahmad Angga Nugraha et al., “Penegakan Hukum Terhadap Pelaku Kekerasan Fisik Dalam Rumah Tangga,” *The Juris: Jurnal Ilmu Hukum* 9, no. 1 (2025): 205–16, <https://doi.org/10.56301/juris.v9i1.1675>.

Secondary data were collected through a literature review encompassing statutory regulations, books, scholarly journals, and other relevant documents.

Data collection techniques included semi-structured interviews, documentary analysis of case reports and judicial decisions, and a comprehensive literature review. Informants were selected using purposive sampling based on their relevant experience, with the sample size determined by data saturation. Data were analyzed qualitatively through the stages of data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. To ensure the validity of the findings, triangulation of both sources and methods was applied. This approach is expected to generate valid, comprehensive, and contextually relevant findings.

### **3. RESEARCH RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

#### **3.1. Prevalence of Domestic Physical Violence Against Wives in Manado City, with Reference to Law Number 23 of 2004**

This study aims to analyze the prevalence of domestic physical violence against wives in Manado City, with reference to the classification set forth in Law Number 23 of 2004 on the Elimination of Domestic Violence (PKDRT Law), particularly concerning physical violence, which encompasses acts resulting in pain, illness, or serious injury. In addition, the study seeks to identify empirical patterns indicating the occurrence of physical violence and to relate these patterns to the social characteristics of respondents.

Manado City, the capital of North Sulawesi Province, with a population of 462,080 in 2025, comprises 11 sub-districts characterized by heterogeneous community profiles. The diversity of ethnic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds in this region also shapes patterns of domestic relations, including perceptions and practices related to violence against wives. Accordingly, analyzing the prevalence of physical violence in Manado City is essential for a contextualized understanding of this phenomenon.

Based on empirical data obtained from questionnaires administered to 90 respondents from the general population ( $N_1 = 90$ ), the majority had completed secondary education (81.11%), while the remainder had completed only primary or lower secondary education (18.89%). In terms of occupation, most respondents were homemakers (44.45%) or self-employed (34.44%), while the remainder were employed in the private sector or served as civil servants. These data indicate that the respondents were predominantly women with secondary education and relatively high levels of economic dependence on their husbands.

The findings reveal that 4 respondents (4.44%) reported having experienced physical violence from their husbands within the past five years, whereas 86 respondents (95.56%) reported no such experience. The forms of physical violence identified include acts such as slapping, punching, kicking, and other behaviors causing pain or injury, as defined under Article 6 of the Domestic Violence Law. Although the percentage appears

relatively low, this finding nonetheless reflects the continued presence of physical violence within households in Manado City.

Among the four respondents who reported experiencing physical violence, three were homemakers without stable employment, while one was self-employed. This suggests a relationship between economic dependence on husbands and vulnerability to physical violence. Moreover, all respondents who experienced such violence reported that they did not report the incidents to the authorities. This reflects the phenomenon of “dark crime,” referring to unreported cases of violence, which in the context of domestic violence is often influenced by cultural norms, stigma, economic dependence, and limited legal awareness.

For comparative purposes, the study also included respondents from a group of female lecturers ( $N_2 = 25$ ), all of whom possessed higher education qualifications and were employed as civil servants. The results indicate that all respondents in this group (100%) reported no experience of physical violence within the household over the past five years. The marked disparity between these two groups suggests a strong association between women’s educational attainment and employment status and their risk of experiencing domestic physical violence. The findings indicate that the prevalence of domestic violence against wives in Manado City is 4.44% among women with lower levels of education and 0% among highly educated and employed women. While quantitatively the prevalence appears relatively low, qualitatively the issue warrants serious attention due to its implications for human rights and the protection of women.

In comparison with national data, this figure appears lower. Data from the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection (Kemen PPPA) indicate that in 2024 there were 19,045 reported cases of domestic violence in Indonesia, the majority involving female victims. Meanwhile, data from the National Commission on Violence Against Women recorded 16,656 cases of domestic violence in 2023. This discrepancy may be attributed to several factors, including the limited sample size, the specific characteristics of the study area, and the likelihood of underreporting in field-based data.

The findings of this study are consistent with those of Dwiyantri Winowoda and Nugraha et al., which identify patriarchal culture as a major factor influencing domestic violence. In the context of Manado City, a pluralistic society, patriarchal values remain evident in husband–wife relationships, particularly among groups with lower levels of education.<sup>12</sup> Furthermore, these findings align with those of Karenina Aulery Putri Wardhani, who demonstrates that economic factors and unequal power relations within the household are primary drivers of domestic violence.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Dwiyantri Winowoda, “Kebijakan Penanggulangan Kejahatan Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga Di Kota Manado”; Nugraha et al., “Penegakan Hukum Terhadap Pelaku Kekerasan Fisik Dalam Rumah Tangga.”

<sup>13</sup> Karenina Aulery Putri Wardhani, “Perlindungan Hukum Terhadap Perempuan Korban Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga (KDRT) Pada Tingkat Penyidikan Berdasarkan Undang-Undang No. 23 Tahun 2004 Tentang Penghapusan Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga (UUPKDRT).”

This study also offers novel insights that reinforce the argument that women's education and economic independence play a critical role in preventing physical violence within the household. This is reflected in the absence of reported cases of physical violence among female lecturers with higher education and stable employment. Accordingly, education functions not only as a means of enhancing knowledge but also as an instrument of empowerment, enabling women to mitigate the risk of domestic violence. The findings suggest that physical violence within the household is shaped not only by individual factors but also by broader social structures. Economic dependence, limited educational attainment, and cultural norms that position women in subordinate roles create conditions conducive to violence. Conversely, women with higher education and economic independence tend to possess stronger bargaining power within household relationships and are therefore less vulnerable to violence.

Moreover, the low reporting rate of physical violence cases indicates the presence of structural barriers within the legal protection system, including limited access to legal services, insufficient public awareness of the Domestic Violence Law, and persistent social stigma against victims. This observation is consistent with the findings of Karini and Muhammad Arif al-Asyari and Muhammad Sifa' F. Yulianis, which emphasize the importance of strengthening access to justice and enhancing the capacity of law enforcement institutions in addressing domestic violence cases.<sup>14</sup>

This study confirms that physical violence against wives within households in Manado City does occur, albeit at a relatively low reported rate. However, the existence of unreported cases suggests that these figures may not accurately reflect the actual prevalence. The dominant factors influencing domestic physical violence include low levels of education and women's economic dependence on their husbands. These findings underscore the importance of adopting a multidimensional approach to addressing domestic violence—one that extends beyond law enforcement to include women's empowerment through education and the promotion of economic independence. Such an approach is essential to achieving more effective and sustainable prevention of domestic violence.

### **3.2. Dominant Factors Influencing Physical Violence Against Wives in Manado City**

This study aims to identify and analyze the dominant factors influencing physical violence against wives in Manado City, with particular attention to socio-cultural and economic dimensions, power relations within the household, and the individual characteristics of both perpetrators and victims. Such analysis is essential, given that

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<sup>14</sup> Karini, "Kekerasan Fisik Dalam Rumah Tangga Menurut KUHP Dan Undang-Undang Nomor 23 Tahun 2004 Tentang Penghapusan Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga"; Muhammad Arif al Asyari and Muhammad Sifa' F. Yulianis, *Perlindungan Hukum Bagi Istri Sebagai Korban Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga (KDRT) Menurut Undang-Undang Nomor 23 Tahun 2004 Tentang Penghapusan Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga*.

physical violence within the household does not occur in isolation but rather results from complex interactions between structural and individual factors.

Manado City, as the study area, exhibits diverse social characteristics, with a population of 462,080 in 2025 distributed across 11 sub-districts. The diversity of ethnic and cultural backgrounds contributes to variations in perspectives on gender relations and domestic practices. Within this context, socio-cultural factors represent a significant variable influencing the occurrence of physical violence against wives.

Based on questionnaire data from 90 respondents drawn from the general population ( $N_1 = 90$ ), 4 respondents (4.44%) reported experiencing physical violence from their husbands within the past five years. Of these, three were homemakers without stable employment, while one was self-employed. All respondents who experienced violence had attained no more than a secondary school education. In contrast, interviews with 25 female lecturers ( $N_2 = 25$ ) revealed that none had experienced physical violence within the household.

These findings demonstrate a clear disparity between women with lower levels of education and those with higher education and stable employment. This difference suggests that educational attainment and economic independence are key determinants influencing the risk of physical violence within the household.

From a socio-cultural perspective, the study finds that patriarchal values persist within society, although not always explicitly articulated. Interview data indicate that some respondents continue to perceive husbands as holding greater authority within the household, particularly in decision-making processes. Such perceptions contribute to unequal relational dynamics, positioning wives in subordinate roles and creating conditions in which physical violence may be used as a form of control or domination.

From an economic standpoint, the findings indicate that wives' economic dependence on their husbands constitutes a highly significant factor. Approximately 44.45% of respondents were homemakers without independent income, and this group accounted for the majority of reported cases of physical violence. Economic dependence constrains women's autonomy in decision-making, including their ability to report incidents of violence. This is further evidenced by the finding that none of the victims in this study reported their experiences to the authorities.

In terms of household power relations, the study indicates that unequal dynamics between husbands and wives are a major trigger of physical violence. In households where the husband is the sole income earner and exercises full control over financial resources, wives are more vulnerable to abuse. Conversely, among women with higher levels of education and stable employment, household relationships tend to be more egalitarian, thereby reducing the likelihood of physical violence.

With regard to individual characteristics, both perpetrators and victims contribute to the occurrence of violence. Although this study does not directly examine the

psychological profiles of perpetrators, the literature and interview data suggest that factors such as poor emotional regulation, economic stress, and prior exposure to familial violence may act as triggers. On the victim side, limited educational attainment and low self-confidence may hinder women's ability to resist or exit abusive situations.

In comparison with previous studies, these findings are consistent with those of Dwiyantri Winowoda, which identify patriarchal culture and economic factors as primary causes of domestic violence.<sup>15</sup> Similarly, Karenina Aulery Putri Wardhani highlights the role of individual, relational, and socio-cultural factors in shaping the occurrence of violence.<sup>16</sup> Furthermore, Nugraha et al. confirm that weak law enforcement and entrenched patriarchal norms are central factors contributing to the persistence of domestic violence.<sup>17</sup>

This study places particular emphasis on two dominant factors: women's level of education and their economic independence. This finding is further supported by national data indicating that the majority of domestic violence victims are women with a high school education or lower. This suggests that education plays a strategic role in enhancing women's bargaining power within the household.

Domestic physical violence is a complex phenomenon that cannot be explained by a single factor; rather, it reflects the interaction of socio-cultural, economic, relational, and individual dimensions.<sup>18</sup> However, within the context of Manado City, educational attainment and economic conditions emerge as the most influential determinants.

Moreover, the reluctance of victims to report incidents of violence indicates the presence of structural and cultural barriers within the legal protection system. Feelings of shame, fear, economic dependence, and a lack of trust in law enforcement institutions discourage victims from seeking justice. This underscores that addressing domestic violence requires not only legal interventions but also broader social and cultural approaches. The findings confirm that women with higher levels of education and economic independence tend to possess stronger bargaining positions within the household, enabling them to avoid or resist acts of violence. Conversely, women with limited education and no independent income are more vulnerable due to their structurally disadvantaged positions.

The study identifies four dominant factors influencing physical violence against wives in Manado City: (1) low levels of women's education, (2) economic dependence on husbands, (3) unequal power relations within the household, and (4) the persistence

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<sup>15</sup> Dwiyantri Winowoda, "Kebijakan Penanggulangan Kejahatan Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga Di Kota Manado."

<sup>16</sup> Karenina Aulery Putri Wardhani, "Perlindungan Hukum Terhadap Perempuan Korban Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga (KDRT) Pada Tingkat Penyidikan Berdasarkan Undang-Undang No. 23 Tahun 2004 Tentang Penghapusan Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga (UUPKDRT)."

<sup>17</sup> Nugraha et al., "Penegakan Hukum Terhadap Pelaku Kekerasan Fisik Dalam Rumah Tangga."

<sup>18</sup> Fatah Rafi Ardiansyah et al., *Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga Sebagai Pemicu Tindak Pidana Lainnya*, ed. Tiyas Vika Widyastuti (PT Nasya Expanding Management, 2024); Joko Subroto, *Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga*, ed. Enik Suyahni (Bumi Aksara, 2021).

of patriarchal cultural norms. These findings highlight the importance of women's empowerment—particularly through education and the enhancement of economic independence—as key strategies for preventing domestic violence. In addition, stronger and more sustained efforts are required from both the government and society to transform cultural norms that tolerate violence and to reinforce the legal protection system for victims.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

This study aims to analyze the prevalence of domestic physical violence against wives in Manado City, based on the classification provided in Law Number 23 of 2004, and to identify the dominant factors influencing its occurrence. The findings indicate that the prevalence of physical violence among respondents from the general population is 4.44%, while no cases were identified among highly educated and employed women. These results confirm that physical violence persists, although it is likely underreported.

The study further identifies several dominant factors influencing physical violence, including low levels of women's education, economic dependence on husbands, unequal power relations within the household, and the persistence of patriarchal cultural norms. Accordingly, the findings reinforce the understanding that domestic violence is a multidimensional phenomenon requiring a comprehensive and integrated approach.

From a practical perspective, this study provides a basis for the formulation of policies aimed at empowering women through education and enhancing economic independence. However, the study is subject to certain limitations, including a relatively small sample size and the potential for bias due to underreporting. Therefore, it is recommended that efforts be made to strengthen legal awareness initiatives, expand access to victim support services, and conduct further research employing broader scopes and more robust methodologies in order to generate more representative and in-depth findings.

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