



## Content Analysis of Sexual Violence News on Twitter

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### Abstract

*The number of sexual violence cases in Indonesia is increasing every year. However, only a few of the victims are willing to speak out, including on social media sites like Twitter. The study aims to determine the tendency of victims to speak by measuring the tendency of news written on Twitter through news headlines, news writers, types of sexual violence, responses to news of sexual violence revealed on Twitter, and the sustainability of the case before the law. This research method uses quantitative content analysis methods. The results of research on the tendency of sexual violence news content on Twitter show that the majority of news published does not meet the main elements of the news, and the most revealed type of violence is mental and physical sexual harassment, compared to other types of violence such as physical, sexual harassment only, sexual assault in the form of rape, prosecution or coercion of sexual activities, and forced sexual activities. Victims dominate the news writers who tell their stories via Twitter, and the rest are written by friends or relatives related to the victims. Of all the violent news stories examined, not one received a negative response. The majority responded positively, and very few responded neutrally. After the news was published on Twitter, only one case out of four continued to be processed legally. Research findings show that framing news on social media can influence people's perceptions and attitudes toward important issues.*

**Keywords:** feminism, cyberfeminist, identity, female gaze

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Sexual violence is a type of violence that can occur both in the public and domestic spheres (Salamor & Anna, 2022). Sexual violence can be divided into two types based on the identity of the perpetrator, namely familial abuse if the perpetrator is a person who is still related by blood or is part of the nuclear family, including the stepfather, and extrafamilial abuse if it is carried out by someone outside the victim's family (Septiani 2021). Cases of sexual violence have been increasing lately, including in Indonesia (Hairi 2015). The number of sexual violence cases in Indonesia increases yearly (The National Commission on Violence Against Women (Komnas Perempuan 2020). Based on data compiled by Komnas Perempuan, in 2019, there were 431,471 cases of sexual violence in Indonesia, of which 416,752 cases were data sourced from the Religious Courts Agency and 14,719 cases sourced from service institutions. From data sourced from service institutions, when viewed from the type of domain, 75.4% (11,105 cases) occurred in the private sphere, 24.4% (3,602 cases) occurred in the community domain, and 0.08% (12 cases) occurred in the State domain. Based on a survey conducted by the Lentera Sintas Indonesia community, Magdalene. Co and facilitated by Change.org in June 2016, of the 25,214 people who participated in the survey in one month, 37.9 percent admitted that they had experienced some form of sexual violence, ranging from verbal violence and non-sexual physical violence to rape. Ninety-three percent of rape survivors never reported their case to law enforcement agencies, and 6 percent reported finally witnessing the perpetrator being freed from legal snares (Asmarani 2016, accessed on October 30, 2022).

Choose not to report the experience of experiencing sexual violence leads to a chance for the perpetrator to repeat acts of violence because the perpetrator thinks that only he and the victim know about the incident. On the other hand, if the public knows that an act of sexual violence has occurred, the perpetrator will limit their activities and prevent them from doing it again (Maliki, D. N., & Susanti, S. 2019). In Indonesia, incidents of sexual violence are still considered a shame for victims and their families that must be covered up (Zahirah et al. 2018). In other words, victims of sexual violence not only have to face the adversity that has happened to them but are also faced with the choice to protect the family's dignity by not talking about the sexual violence they experienced. Only a few of

the victims of sexual violence are willing to speak up, including speaking up on social media Twitter and.

Twitter is Indonesia's fifth most widely used social media (Dahono 2021). Because in a study stated that if an organization does not participate in Facebook, Youtube, Twitter, and second life, then the organization is not part of cyberspace (Andreas 2010). Twitter is a website owned and operated by Twitter Inc, formed in 2006 by Jack Dorsey (Rezeki et al., 2020). Twitter, like other social media, identifies identity, conversation, sharing, presence, relationship, reputation, and groups (Keiztmann et al. 2011). Another research related to mocking with the theme of sexual activity in speech acts of praise on Twitter by Putri A.K. and Octavian M.R. (2022) found that sexual activity on Twitter can be in the form of words, the pragmatic meaning of obscenities sexual activity has a verbal meaning, and the pragmatic function of sexual activity-theme profanity is as adverbial and adjective intensifying, and mocking. So that sexual harassment has "a wide scope both verbally and in writing, physically and non-physically, starting from verbal expressions (inappropriate words, sexual jokes and so on) (Sanjaya & AA Ngurah 2022). Sexual harassment in physical form can be poking, groping, stroking, hugging, and so on (Sumera, 2013).

There are many reasons social media users use and choose Twitter as a place to tell stories, including the fact that we don't need to mention the identity of the person we mention in the status. Anger/hurt encourages us to tell stories on social media impulsively. This story will get a faster response, and the story writers get positive ratings for themselves when getting a positive response (tirto.id 2021). Stories that usually get a response from many Twitter users are about sexual violence. Sexual violence is a coercive activity in various forms, such as psychological intimidation and acts of extortion, and includes threats that pose a risk of injury, dismissal, or job refusal. All of which can be used in addition to physical coercion. Sexual violence includes rape, which is a forced sexual assault. Actions that are included in sexual violence also include other acts of assault related to sexual organs, such as forced contact of such organs to mouth (WHO 2002).

Cases of sexual violence revealed on Twitter not only get a response on Twitter but also become a source of news on online news portals. One of the cases of violence originating from Twitter news and published in online media is the

sexual violence posted on CNNIndonesia (23/09/2020) entitled “Unscrupulous Airport Rapid Test Doctors Charged with Harassment Articles”. This case comes from a Twitter account called @listongs which tells of a harassment and extortion of a woman at an airport by an unscrupulous doctor handling COVID-19.

Research related to this issue has also been carried out from various points of view, such as legal protection (Ermana et al. 2017; Ma'ruf, A. 2017.; Wahyu Widiastuti and Endang Yuliana 2014), education (Fatmawati & Maulana 2016; Ninawati et al. 2018; Nurbaya & Qasim 2018), and many more. In this study, what was captured was the tendency of victims to tell about sexual violence they experienced through Twitter media associated with framing patterns and their potential influence on public perceptions and attitudes.

## **METHODS**

This research was conducted using the method of content analysis. Based on the approach used, content analysis is divided into two approaches: quantitative and qualitative. From the quantitative methodology perspective, Webber explains that it is a scientific method of studying conclusions on a phenomenon by utilizing documentation (text) in general with techniques to describe objectively, systematically, and quantitatively the contents of visible communication (Eriyanto 2013).

According to Titscher et al. (2009), in conducting content analysis, four selection decisions must be made:

- a) From what material I do research. This research is an analysis of sexual violence content on Twitter, where the material chosen to conduct this research is Twitter threads with the theme of sexual violence;
  
- b) What is selected from this material? This study focuses on the theme of sexual violence on Twitter, sourced from threads that appeared during the period May 2020-July 2021. The length of the period was chosen because, in many cases,

if the posting time is too far from the time of data collection, the posted thread is permanently deleted either by the news writer themselves, Twitter, or by parties who are not pleased with the emergence of the news;

- c) How many sets of texts are analyzed? During the period May 2020-July 2021, 20 threads had the theme of sexual violence. However, considering that one of the study's objectives is to capture responses to threads, the sample is limited to only samples that receive responses, and a sample of 16 threads was selected.
- d) What is the unit of analysis? The unit of analysis studied in the sexual violence thread on Twitter is the news trend unit, which includes the headline, types of sexual violence, the status of news writers, response to the news, and continuity of news to the jurisdiction.

**Table 1.**  
**News Trend Analysis Unit**

No	Category	Indicators	Measuring Unit
1	Headline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What</li> <li>• Who</li> </ul>	Per news

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where</li> <li>• When</li> <li>• Why</li> <li>• How</li> </ul>	
2	Types of Sexual Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sexual assault in the form of rape</li> <li>• Mental or physical sexual harassment</li> <li>• Sharing videos or photos that contain sexual content without permission</li> <li>• The act of prosecuting/coercing sexual activity on a person or redemption/requirement to obtain something by sexual activity.</li> <li>• Forced marriage.</li> <li>• Prohibiting someone from using contraception</li> <li>• Forced abortion</li> <li>• Violence against sexual organs</li> <li>• Prostitution and commercial sexual exploitation</li> </ul>	
3	Status of News Writers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victim</li> <li>• Perpetrator</li> <li>• Friends</li> <li>• Relatives related to the perpetrator/victim</li> <li>• No relations at all</li> </ul>	Per news
4	Response to News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive</li> <li>• Negative</li> <li>• Neutral</li> </ul>	Per news
5	Cases Continuity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proceed to legal process</li> <li>• Do not proceed to the legal process</li> </ul>	Per news

From the four decisions above, it can be concluded that the population of this study is Twitter news with the theme of sexual violence that occurred during the period May 2020-July 2021. The sample selection was carried out using the purposive sampling technique, and 16 news items were selected as samples.

After determining the unit of analysis, categorization, and samples, the next step is to test the validity and reliability. Validity can be interpreted as a measuring tool that is used precisely for the concept to be measured. According to Krippendorff, validity is the quality of research results that will lead someone to believe that the facts cannot be challenged (Eriyanto 2011). This study uses construct validity; the measuring instrument is not originally compiled but must be derived from a theoretical framework.

The reliability test in this study was carried out by calculating the reliability of two coders, where both coders were given a measuring instrument (coding sheet).

They were asked to rate the category per unit of measure according to the instructions, and the results were compared. In calculating approval from the results of the coders' research, the researcher used the Holsti formula (Eriyanto 2011). If the level of agreement reaches 0.75 or more, then the data obtained is declared valid and reliable. On the other hand, if the level of agreement does not reach 0.75, the operational category needs to be made more specific. Based on the test results of the two coders. The use of data analysis in this study is to analyze the content that appears to be in accordance with the purpose of the researcher's search. The data analysis technique used is coding data analysis. Coding is an activity to change data in the form of letters into data in the form of numbers. The purpose of coding is to simplify data analysis and also speed up data entry. There are several indicators in this study: the form of sexual violence, the main content of the news, the status of the thread creator, the response to the thread, and the continuity of the thread.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Online media is a general term for media based on multimedia and telecommunications. Online media is defined as media that is presented online and is usually called internet media and new media (Romli 2018). Online media, in general, are all media types or formats that can only be accessed via the internet, containing text, photos, video, and sound. Online media include portals, websites (websites, including blogs and social media such as Facebook and Twitter), online radio, online TV, and email.

Twitter (/ˈtwɪtər/) is an online social networking and microblogging service that allows its users to send and read text-based messages of up to 140 characters (now 280 characters), known as tweets. Today, Twitter has become an alternative media for the community after radio, television, and newspapers in terms of people's choices in tweeting their daily activities (Zukhrufillah 2018). Twitter is one type of online media categorized as telecommunications and multimedia-based media. Twitter is a website-based online media that, when viewed from the publisher's perspective, is a type of personal website (blog). Twitter is also one of the easiest social networks to use because it only takes a short time, but the information conveyed can instantly spread widely (Setyani 2013). Compared to conventional media, Twitter as an online media has advantages such as being multimedia, actual, fast, up to date, having a wide capacity, flexible, having a wide

reach, and interactive (Romli 2020). In addition to these advantages, Twitter has other advantages, such as the openness of Twitter as a place to vent, and it allows users to use an anonymous identity. It is interesting to study the trend of news on Twitter related to the issue of sexual violence. The trend of the news referred to in this study is measured by the headline, the writer of the news, the type of sexual violence, the response to the news of sexual violence revealed on Twitter, and the continuation of the case before the law.

Based on field data, the trend of sexual violence news on Twitter can be seen in the following table:

**Table 2.**

**Frequency of News Trends on Twitter**

Category	Indicators	Frequency
Headline	Complete	37.5%
	Incomplete	62.5%
Sexual Violence	Mental or physical sexual harassment	68.75%
	Physical, sexual harassment	6.25%
	Sexual assault in the form of rape	12.5%
	Prosecution/coercion of sexual activity	6.25%
	Forced sexual activity	6.25%
News Writer	Victim	75%
	Friends/Relatives related to the victim	25%
News Response	Positive	68.75%
	Negative	0%
	Neutral	31.25%
News Continuity	Proceed to legal process	25%
	Do not proceed to the legal process	75%

**Headline.** Twitter, as an online media whose news is written by citizen journalists in its thread writing, can be analyzed through the main elements of the news. News on Twitter must at least contain one news value and be reconstructed in a series of words or sentences that include 5W+1H elements. 5W+1H consists of what, who, when, where, why, and how. What contains a sentence that describes what happened; who contains a sentence that states who was involved; when contains a sentence that shows the time of the event; where contains a



sentence that shows the place of the event; why contains a sentence that shows the cause and how contains a sentence that shows the chronology or process of events. Sometimes an additional element is also needed, so what contains a sentence that describes the follow-up event (Romli 2020). Based on data taken in the field, the headlines on sexual violence news on Twitter show that there is 37.5% of news with complete headlines and 62.5% news with incomplete headlines.

**Sexual violence.** Any sexual act, attempt to perform a sexual act, comment, or suggestion of sexual behavior that is unintentional or otherwise, an act of violation to have sexual relations with force against someone, is the definition of sexual violence (WHO 2017). WHO classifies sexual violence into several acts, including a) acts of rape, including sodomy, forced oral sexual activity, acts of sexual assault with objects, and forced touching or kissing; b) sexual harassment mentally or physically, including mentioning it in a sexual context to others, making sexual jokes, c) spreading videos without permission that contain sexual content, acts of coercion to engage in pornography, d) prosecution/coercion of sexual activity on someone or redemption/conditioning of obtaining something by sexual activity, e) forced marriage, f) prohibiting a person from using contraceptives or tools to prevent sexually transmitted diseases, g) forced abortion, h) violence against sexual organs including mandatory examination of virginity, and i) prostitution and commercial sexual exploitation. Based on data obtained in the field regarding sexual violence news, various types of violence were disclosed, including 68.75% mental and physical sexual harassment, 6.25% physical, sexual harassment, 12.5% sexual assault in the form of rape, 6.25% prosecution/coercion of sexual activity, and 6.25% forced sexual activity.

**News writer.** News writers on social media are usually ordinary people, not professional journalists, who work in media and are usually called citizen journalists. On Twitter, citizen journalism activities fall into the category of media audience participation. Ordinary people without professional journalism training can use technology to disseminate and correct news in online media. The newsmakers in this study are divided into several categories: victims, perpetrators, friends or relatives who are related to the victim/perpetrator, and people who have nothing to do with either the victim or the perpetrator. The results of the data show that 75% of the authors of threads on Twitter are victims who tell their own

experiences, and the other 25% are friends or relatives who are related to the victim.

**Response.** According to Soekanto (2012), what is meant by response is behavior which is a response or answer to previous behavior regarding a particular problem. The response can also be said as feedback that influences determining whether a communication is good. The response is very closely related to the communication process since in communication; there are components which include: a. Communicator: the person who conveys the message b. Message: statement supported by symbol c. Communicant: the person who receives the message. Media: means or channels that support the messages, e. Effect: the impact of the message's influence. In this study, what is meant by response is responses, answers, comments, and feedback related to sexual violence news on Twitter. Responses in this study were divided into three categories: positive, negative, and neutral. Positive responses can be in the form of support, enthusiasm, motivation, and similar positive words. Negative responses can be in the form of accusations, curses, attacks, and similar words. The neutral response is an answer, comment, response, and feedback that does not contain positive or negative words and is neutral. Judging by the number of responses, of the 16 news samples sampled, news no. 11 is news with the highest response, with 881 accounts responding to the news, while the lowest response was news no. 9, with one response. Based on the data obtained in this study, the positive response was 68.75%, the negative response was 0%, and the neutral response was 31.25%.

**Case continuity.** As explained above, in the news, there are main elements that contain 5W+1H questions, and sometimes one additional question is needed: "So what?" This question is expected to answer the follow-up events of the news presented. Therefore, this study also examined how the continuity of sexual violence cases reported through Twitter. The continuity in question is the continuation of the case to the legal process, whether it continues to the legal process or just disappears. Based on the data we got in the field, there are 25% of cases of sexual violence originating from news on Twitter that goes through the legal process, and 75% of them just disappear.

Twitter is one of the most widely used social media by its users to conduct publications and distribution activities for phenomena or events that occur around

users to those experienced by users themselves (Kwak et al. 2010). One of the most obvious forms of publication in question is the phenomenon of citizen journalism. Citizen journalism is an activity to report events carried out by ordinary people who, in this case, are victims of sexual violence themselves. As many as 75% of citizen journalists on Twitter who report incidents of sexual violence are victims themselves. Citizen journalism has several drawbacks; for example, the author does not feel the need to obey the new code of ethics or journalistic code of ethics and does not have standard procedures (Romli 2020). This is evidenced by only 37.5% of sexual violence news during the May 2020-July 2021 period, which contains complete news elements. However, what is even more interesting is the data that shows that news articles containing complete 5W+1H elements get very high responses from netizens. Another fact also shows that news that has legal continuity is news that has complete news content and has high response rates.

According to a study entitled "What is Twitter, a Social Network or a News Media?", an event or phenomenon, if they are "reported" on Twitter, will spread more quickly or become viral to the wider community (Kwak et al. 2010). A similar study with the title "The Effect of Empathy on Prosocial Behavior in Re-Sharing Information or Retweeting Social Activities on the Twitter Social Network" states that Twitter users tend to have empathy power to spread information that they consider important or good to be known by many people so that other users can benefit or know the same information at almost the same time (Puspita & Gumelar 2014). This is by following data on sexual violence news on Twitter, where one news item can get 881 responses. Regarding the news response, the facts also show that the news that gets a lot of responses is news with a complete headline covering 5W + 1H. News that has complete headlines and a large number of responses is news no. 1, with a total response of 700 accounts; news no. Seven with a total response of 519 accounts, news no. 11 with a total response of 881 accounts, and news numbers 13, 14, and 16 with a response of, respectively, 826 accounts, 384 accounts, and 250 accounts. In addition, cases of sexual violence originating from news on Twitter that continues to the legal proceeding are news with a high number of responses, such as news cases no. 1, 2, 11, and 13. Other studies that have been carried out to strengthen the results of this study, namely research conducted by Nisa, Y. E. J., & Nurhadi, N. (2022)

with the title "Cancel culture of sexual violence cases among followers of auto base Twitter @areajulid" which found that (1) all The interviewees agreed that although their reasons for using Twitter were different, they wanted to make the community better by trying to help cancel cases related to sexual violence, (2) All interviewees agreed that a cancel culture is a form of social sanction that can be positive, for example, because it is able to go viral. And encourage legal action, but it can also be negative if netizens are too focused on blaspheming the perpetrators. It all depends on the user's policies or, in other words. A cancel culture is a tool of social control through ridicule/ridicule and rumors/gossip.

Based on research conducted by Willness, Steel, & Lee (2007), one of the reasons why cases of sexual harassment are becoming more and more common is the Organizational Climate where victims assume that the organization will not follow up on reports of sexual harassment or underestimate reports from the victims. This is in line with our research data, which shows that only 25% of cases reported on Twitter go to court.

Compared with data from Komnas Perempuan, the number of victims who told stories about the events they experienced on Twitter was very small. In Indonesia, which still considers sexual issues taboo, not only telling personal experiences related to sexual violence but reading sexual stories from Twitter also generates various opinions. One of them, as the research conducted by Cheril, R., & Putri, K. Y. S. (2022) entitled "The Phenomenon of Twitter's Sexual Trending Topic Against Student Perceptions", found that the respondents who were students admitted that they were uncomfortable and felt that trending topics that talked about sex were very troubling. And is not content that can be consumed publicly. This could be because victims face the complexities of the sexual violence they experienced. In Indonesia, which still considers sexual issues taboo, not only telling personal experiences related to sexual violence but reading sexual stories from Twitter also generates various opinions. One of them, as the research conducted by Cheril, R., & Putri, K. Y. S. (2022) entitled "The Phenomenon of Twitter's Sexual Trending Topic Against Student Perceptions", found that the respondents who were students admitted that they were uncomfortable and felt that trending topics that talked about sex were very troubling. And is not content that can be consumed publicly.

Finkelhor (Kinnear 2007) divides the impact of sexual harassment into four main categories:

1. *Traumatic sexualization* occurs due to inappropriate sexual relations between the perpetrator and the victim.
2. *Stigmatization* occurs because the victim feels guilty and responsible for the sexual harassment incident that occurred, so the victim will withdraw from her environment.
3. *Betrayal* occurs when the victim is hurt by other people, and the victim finds it difficult to trust others.
4. *Powerlessness* is a feeling that arises because the victim cannot stop the abusive behavior, so the victim is helpless and tormented when they are about to reveal the incident.

The impact of sexual violence can affect many aspects, both physically and mentally, which are damaging to the victim. Not to mention in Indonesia, incidents of sexual violence are still considered a disgrace to victims and often corner the victim as the originator of sexual violence. With such conditions, data from the government and the private sector, as well as data on social media as done by researchers, may only be the tip of the iceberg. The facts on the field could be much more than what was reported.

In terms of journalism, citizen journalism activities, such as threads about experiences with sexual violence, resemble journalistic activities carried out by the journalist. The position of citizens who carry out citizen journalism cannot be equated with the position of the journalist profession because journalists carry out journalistic activities continuously professionally and consistently, so the position of journalists can be categorized as a profession (TARANTO, H., & Astuti, P. 2019). However, another research conducted by Fayani, A., Gelgel, N. M. R. A., & Suryawati, I. G. A. A. (2018) found that professional journalists appreciate citizen journalism. The research found that Balinese journalists assess citizen journalism as a forum for aspiring citizens to provide information and are considered capable of playing a role in helping media journalists disseminate information or news with positive indicators of each question asked.

In addition to fulfilling the 5W1H news elements, Kusumaningrat (2009) in Herawati, D.M. (2019) assessed that there are five unique characteristics of news that guide in presenting and assessing the feasibility of

news. Its elements are as follows: (1) News must be accurate, meaning that news writers should not ignore the question of accuracy and be careful in writing facts from news sources, (2) News must be complete, meaning that a news writer must report what happened by collecting proportional, fair and balanced facts, (3) News must be objective, meaning that the news made must be in line with reality, impartial and free from prejudice, (4) News must be concise and clear, meaning that the news presented must be digested quickly, and (5) News must be updated, meaning that news must be new. Based on the empirical data produced by this study, citizen journalism, although it has not yet received legal protection, is an alternative source of promising and trustworthy news. In addition, if the writing of the main story is carried out in full, it can attract readers to pay attention and comment and ultimately encourage the handling of cases of sexual violence to the law.

The importance of fulfilling the rules of writing in citizenship news is because based on these findings show that sexual violence news on Twitter is often incomplete, so it can affect public perception of the issue. The prevalence of sexual, mental, and physical abuse as the main type of violence revealed in the news highlights the need for more education and increased awareness about different forms of sexual violence. The dominance of victim writers in the news shows the importance of amplifying survivors' voices in the media. The study's findings on highly positive responses to news of sexual violence on Twitter suggest that social media platforms like Twitter have the potential to promote positive social change by raising awareness and mobilizing public opinion on the issue. However, the lack of negative responses in the news suggests that there may be a normalization of sexual violence, and more needs to be done to challenge this narrative. The low number of cases going to court is concerning and highlights the need for increased legal protection for victims of sexual violence. These findings suggest that efforts to prevent and address sexual violence require a multi-faceted approach that includes education, awareness-raising, legal reform, and increased support for survivors.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on the results of the study, it can be concluded that news of sexual violence is still a conversation in the community, especially on Twitter. However, compared to the actual number of data, the news that appears on Twitter is only a few of the many cases on the ground. This shows that social media can be an incomplete source of information, and other sources are needed to be able to obtain accurate information about sexual violence. The difference in social and law enforcement responses to stories written through Twitter has to do with how the suffering of sexual violence is framed and how various aspects of the story are emphasized or belittled in the language used by journalists, survivors, and other Twitter users. This shows that the way a story is presented can affect people's perceptions and attitudes.

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