# CHAPTER I
# INTRODUCTION

## A. Background of the Problem

Catcalling is a form of verbal sexual harassment that degrades the dignity of women in public spaces. Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning the Crime of Sexual Violence (TPKS Law) has provided a clear legal basis by including non-physical sexual violence, in the form of sexually explicit words or comments. Article 5 of the Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning the Crime of Sexual Violence (TPKS Law) emphasizes that perpetrators can be sentenced to imprisonment for up to nine months and/or a fine of up to Rp10,000,000, so catcalling is not just a joke or praise, but a violation of the law that harms the victim[1].

Despite this legal framework, sexual harassment remains prevalent in Indonesia. According to the National Commission on Violence Againts Women (Komnas Perempuan) in March 2026, 376,529 cases of gender-based violence against women were recorded throughout 2025, an increase of 14.07 per cent on the preceding year.[2] Among the complaints received directly by the Commission, sexual violence was the form of violence most frequently reported, and the victims were predominantly women between

[1] Law No. 12 of 2022 concerning Sexual Violence Crimes, Article 5.

[2] Komnas Perempuan "CATAHU 2025*:* Menguatkan Data, Mengatasi Kerentanan, Mendesak Negara Bersikap untuk Keadilan Korban, Jakarta: Komnas Perempuan, 2026, https://komnasperempuan.go.id/catatan-tahunan-detail/catahu-2025-menguatkan-data-mengatasi-kerentanan-mendesak-negara-bersikap-untuk-keadilan-korban, Accessed on 12 January 2026.

eighteen and forty years of age, the age range within which the undergraduate population examined in this research falls. The Commission attributes part of the increase to the growing willingness of victims to come forward and to the widening of the documentation system, but the scale of the figure indicates that the existence of legal regulation alone has not been sufficient to prevent sexual harassment in society. The persistence of these incidents demonstrates a gap between the legal norms established by legislation (das sollen) and the reality occurring within society (das sein).

The situation is similarly reflected in Sleman, which is widely known as a city of students. Research conducted by Liyani and Hanum found that catcalling frequently occurs in public spaces in Sleman and predominantly targets women, particularly female students.[3] Their research further explains that catcalling is often normalized as ordinary social behaviour, causing many victims not to recognise it as a form of sexual harassment. Likewise, Safitri found that female university students frequently experienced verbal sexual harassment in campus environments, while patriarchal culture, victim-blaming, and gender stereotypes contributed to the persistence of such behaviour.[4] These findings demonstrate that catcalling remains a common phenomenon experienced by female students.

[3] Wiwik Liyani and Farida Hanum, "*Street Harassment: Catcalling sebagai Salah Satu Bentuk Pelecehan Seksual terhadap Perempuan di Yogyakarta*," *E-Societas: Jurnal Pendidikan Sosiologi* 9, no. 3 (2020): page 8–9.

[4] Yoni Yolinda Safitri, *Pelecehan Seksual Secara Verbal (Catcalling) di Salah Satu Perguruan Tinggi di Yogyakarta* (Skripsi, UIN Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta, 2020), page 16.

Although Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning the Crime of Sexual Violence (TPKS Law) has provided legal protection against non-physical sexual violence, previous studies indicate that many victims continue to normalize catcalling and rarely seek legal remedies or report such conduct to the competent authorities. Lathiifarahma further found that victims often face obstacles in reporting catcalling due to limited knowledge of reporting mechanisms, evidentiary difficulties, and concerns about social stigma.[5] Consequently, the issue extends beyond the continued occurrence of catcalling to the effectiveness of the legal protection available to victims and the practical accessibility of criminal justice mechanisms. These circumstances demonstrate that the existence of legal provisions alone is insufficient unless they are effectively implemented and capable of providing meaningful protection for victims.

Several factors contribute to the persistence of catcalling and the limited effectiveness of legal protection. First, patriarchal cultural values continue to position women as objects of public evaluation, resulting in the normalisation of sexually harassing behaviour. Safitri explains that verbal sexual harassment is frequently tolerated because of prevailing patriarchal norms and victim-blaming attitudes within society.[6] Second, Murakaba and Rafi'ie[7] argue that insufficient legal education and legal literacy regarding

[5] Lathiifarahma, "*The Extent of Legal Protection for Victims of Catcalling that Occurs in Yogyakarta*," (Skripsi, Fakultas Hukum, Universitas Islam Indonesia, 2024), page 29–41.

[6] Yoni Yolinda Safitri, Loc.cit.

[7] Murakaba Murakaba dan Mohamad Rafi'ie, "*Tinjauan Yuridis Terhadap Perbuatan Catcalling (Pelecehan Seksual Secara Verbal): Berdasarkan UU No. 12 Tahun 2022 tentang Tindak Pidana Kekerasan Seksual di Indonesia*," *Justicia Journal* 12, no. 2 (2023): page 5–6.

sexual violence contribute to the persistence of catcalling. Third, law enforcement concerning catcalling has not always produced an effective deterrent effect. For instance, in the case involving an official of the Jakarta Transportation Agency[8], the perpetrator received only an administrative sanction despite public criticism. Similarly, in the widely publicized Malioboro catcalling case in 2021[9], stronger action was taken only after the incident attracted widespread attention on social media. These examples indicate that responses to catcalling have frequently been reactive rather than preventive.

The above circumstances demonstrate the urgency of strengthening legal awareness concerning catcalling. According to the National Commission on Violence Against Women (Komnas Perempuan) reports of sexual violence continue to increase annually, indicating that gender-based violence remains a significant legal and social issue in Indonesia.[10] The effectiveness of criminal law is determined not only by the existence of statutory provisions but also by their implementation in protecting victims and ensuring access to legal remedies. Female university students constitute an important research population because they frequently occupy public

[8] Angelina Natalie Halim,"Catcalling dan Pelecehan Seksual di Muka Umum: Apakah Ada Aturan Hukumnya?", LK2 FH UI, https://lk2fhui.law.ui.ac.id/portfolio/catcalling-dan-pelecehan-seksual-di-muka-umum-apakah-ada-aturan-hukumnya/ , Accessed on 2 January 2026.

[9] *"Pelaku Catcalling di Malioboro Akhirnya Disanksi Tegas, Korban: Kenapa Harus Nunggu Viral Dulu?*," *Tribunnews*, 8 February 2021 https://www.tribunnews.com/regional/2021/02/08/pelaku-catcalling-di-malioboro-akhirnya-disanksi-tegas-korban-kenapa-harus-nunggu-viral-dulu , Accessed on 10 January 2026.

[10] "*Komnas Perempuan: Stigma Gender Hambat Kesetaraan di Indonesia*," *Antara News*, 2 April 2024, https://www.antaranews.com/berita/5197005/komnas-perempuan-stigma-gender-hambat-kesetaraan-di-indonesia, Accessed on 12 January 2026.

spaces and are among the groups most vulnerable to experiencing catcalling. Beyond their general exposure to public spaces, female college students are also the specific subject of a dedicated regulatory regime: the Regulation of the Minister of Education, Culture, Research and Technology Number 55 of 2024 imposes obligations directly tied to the higher education environment, obligations which do not extend to women outside that environment. This population accordingly allows this research to examine the operation of both the general legal protection provided under the TPKS Law and the campus-specific protection mandated by that Regulation. Although Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning Sexual Violence Crimes has strengthened legal protection for victims of non-physical sexual violence, empirical evidence regarding female university students' understanding of criminal law norms concerning catcalling, as well as the legal protection available to them in practice, remains limited, particularly in Sleman. It must be emphasised at the outset that the obligation to protect victims of sexual violence rests upon the state. Article 28I paragraph (4) of the 1945 Constitution places the protection, advancement, enforcement and fulfilment of human rights upon the state, and Law Number 12 of 2022 on Sexual Violence Crimes distributes that obligation among law enforcement agencies, the Witness and Victim Protection Agency (LPSK), integrate service units and higher education institutions. The level of legal awareness among female students is therefore examined in this research not as a form

of protection in itself, but as a factual condition to which those duty bearers are required to respond.

Although studies concerning catcalling have increased in recent years, most previous research has focused on its sociological aspects, psychological impacts, legal regulation, or law enforcement. However, limited empirical legal research has specifically examined catcalling from the perspective of Indonesian criminal law while simultaneously analysing the legal protection available to female university students as victims. Therefore, this research adopts an empirical legal approach to analyse catcalling as a form of non-physical sexual harassment under Indonesian criminal law and to examine the legal protection afforded to female students in Sleman. Through this approach, the research evaluates the implementation of criminal law norms (*law in action*) and assesses whether the existing legal framework has provided adequate protection for victims.

Therefore, this research is conducted to address the existing empirical gap by examining the level of understanding of female students in Sleman Regency regarding catcalling as verbal sexual harassment according to Indonesian criminal law norms and analysing the legal protection available to female students as victims of catcalling as a form of non-physical sexual harassment. The findings of this research are expected to contribute to the development of criminal law studies concerning catcalling, provide recommendations for strengthening legal protection and reporting mechanisms for victims, support the formulation of more effective

campus policies in preventing sexual harassment, and contribute to improving the implementation of Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning Sexual Violence Crimes.

## B. Problems Formulation

In connection with the above explanation, this research aims to address two problems:

1. What is the level of legal awareness of female students in Sleman Regency regarding catcalling as a form of non-physical sexual harassment under Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning Sexual Violence Crimes?
2. How is the legal protection for female students as victims of catcalling as a form of non-physical sexual harassment in Sleman Regency?

## C. Research Objectives

This research aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. To analyse level of legal awareness of female students of catcalling as a form of non-physical sexual harassment under Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning Sexual Violence Crimes.
2. To analyse the legal protection for female students as victims of catcalling as a form of non-physical sexual harassment in Sleman Regency.

## D. Research Originality

Table 1.1 Research Originality

| No | Source | Research Focus/Results | Main Differences with this Research |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Safitri (2020), Pelecehan Seksual Secara Verbal (Catcalling) di Salah Satu Perguruan Tinggi di Yogyakarta. | It identifies the forms of verbal sexual harassment (catcalling) experienced by female students and the six factors that cause them, such as gender inequality, marginalization, subordination, stereotypes, violence, and double burden. The focus of the research is sociological and describes the phenomenon of catcalling in the campus environment. | This research examines the legal awareness of female students, not just the form and factors of catcalling. In addition, this research assesses the extent of female students' understanding of the legal basis of catcalling as a verbal crime under the Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning the Crime of Sexual Violence (TPKS Law), something that was not discussed in Safitri's research. |
| 2 | Liyani & Hanum (2020), Street Harassement Catcalling: Sebagai salah satu bentuk Pelecehan Seksual Terhadap Perempuan di Yogyakarta. | It reveals how catcalling occurs widely in public spaces in Sleman, influenced by cultural normalisation, victim blaming, and low social awareness. This research emphasizes social and cultural dynamics in the context of public spaces. | The present research, which focused on female students as an educated group, this research did not assess the legal awareness of victims, did not evaluate legal understanding related to catcalling, and did not focus on the campus context. The previous research also did not analyse the extent of knowledge about the Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning the Crime of Sexual Violence (TPKS Law) among female students. |
| 3 | Tauratiya (2020), Perbuatan Catcalling Dalam Perspektif | Examines the position of catcalling within Indonesian positive law prior to the enactment of the TPKS Law. The study finds that catcalling is not regulated as a distinct | Tauratiya's research is doctrinal and confined to the written norm, whereas the present research is empirical and examines how the norm operates among the persons it is intended to protect. Tauratiya assessed the adequacy of the pre- |

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|---|---|---|---|
| | Hukum Positif. | offence and can be reached only indirectly, through Article 281 and Article 289 of the Criminal Code and Law Number 44 of 2008 concerning Pornography, while protection for the victim rests on Law Number 39 of 1999 concerning Human Rights and Law Number 31 of 2014 concerning the Protection of Witnesses and Victims. It concludes that the divergence of terminology between those provisions restricts their application and produces legal uncertainty. The study is doctrinal and relies exclusively on legal materials. | TPKS provisions, while the present research takes Article 5 of Law Number 12 of 2022 as its point of departure. Tauratiya identified legal uncertainty as the principal obstacle; the present research proceeds from the position that the norm is now certain, and locates the obstacle instead in the dissemination of that norm and in the accessibility of the reporting mechanism, as measured among female students in Sleman Regency. |
| 4 | Kartika & Najemi (2020),<br><br>Kebijakan Hukum Perbuatan Pelecehan Seksual (Catcalling) dalam Perspektif Hukum Pidana. | It provides a normative analysis of the legal position of catcalling based on the Criminal Code, Human Rights Law, Pornography Law, and Witness and Victim Protection Law. Highlighting the issue of legal certainty before the Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning the Crime of Sexual Violence (TPKS Law). | Kartika & Najemi's research is normative doctrinal research, while this research is empirical legal research, assessing how legal understanding is received by female students. In addition, this research examines the legal awareness of female students, not only the legal basis of catcalling, and focuses on the implementation and understanding in student life. |
| 5 | Warahafida & Elvany (2024),<br><br>Tinjauan Kriminologi | Analyzing sexual violence against women in Sleman from the perspective of criminology and law enforcement. The study | Warahafida & Elvany's research does not focus on perception, but on legal awareness. Moreover it also analyse the factors that affect the legal awareness of female students regarding catcalling |

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|---|---|---|---|
| | dan Upaya Penegakan Hukum Tindak Pidana Kekerasan Seksual terhadap Perempuan di Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta. | highlights barriers such as limited resources, reporting barriers, and evidentiary issues in the law enforcement process. | according to the Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning the Crime of Sexual Violence (TPKS Law), which was not studied in the research of Warahafida & Elvany (2024) |

## E. Literature Review

### 1. Catcalling

Catcalling is a form of sexual harassment that occurs in public spaces, it can also come in the form of comments from strangers, or verbal insults directed at one's physical appearance. Catcalling can be considered a criminal offence because it meets the characteristics of an unlawful act. According to Prof. Simons[11], the elements of a criminal offence include the existence of a human act, the threat of legal sanctions, a violation of the law, intentional commission, and the involvement of an individual who can be held accountable. The following are the elements of the criminal offence of catcalling:

a. The existence of an act performed by a human being

[11] Asmi Fahru Reza Mawardi, "Catcalling as Non-Physical Sexual Harassment Reviewed from Positive Law in Indonesia," *Lex Journal: Kajian Hukum dan Keadilan* 10, no. 1 (2026): page 172-179.

Catcalling involves human actions. These actions include making sexual comments or engaging in behavior that makes others feel uncomfortable, such as whistling or making inappropriate gestures, like moving one's lips.

b. Subject to Criminal Liability

Catcalling, which constitutes a form of verbal harassment, can be punished under laws regarding indecent acts because it is considered a form of disrespectful behavior that contains elements of pornography.

c. Illegal

Catcalling may be considered unlawful because it violates the rights and dignity of others. Therefore, it may constitute a criminal offence under applicable law.

d. Committed with culpability

The factors of culpability include the criminal's ability to be held responsible for their conduct, the absence of any exculpatory grounds in the form of justifying circumstances, and a mental connection between the offender and the act, which may take the shape of intent or negligence.

e. A person capable of being held accountable

A perpetrator's criminal liability depends on the existence of culpability. If there are no excuses or

justifications for a person's behavior, they are deemed capable of being held accountable.[12]

The legal regulation of catcalling in Indonesia has undergone significant development following the enactment of Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning the Crime of Sexual Violence (TPKS Law). Prior to the enactment of this law, there was no specific provision expressly regulating catcalling. Law enforcement authorities generally relied on several provisions of the Indonesian Criminal Code (KUHP) and Law Number 44 of 2008 concerning Pornography to prosecute perpetrators of verbal sexual harassment. This situation created legal uncertainty because catcalling had not yet been explicitly recognised as a distinct criminal offence.

The enactment of the Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning the Crime of Sexual Violence (TPKS Law) provides a more comprehensive legal basis for addressing catcalling. Article 1 paragraph (1) of the Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning the Crime of Sexual Violence (TPKS Law) broadly defines sexual violence crimes as any act that fulfils the elements of sexual violence as regulated under the Law. This provision establishes the legal foundation for recognising various forms of sexual violence, including non-physical sexual harassment.

[12] Angeline Hidayat and Yugih Setyanto, "*Fenomena Catcalling Sebagai Bentuk Pelecehan Seksual Secara Verbal Terhadap Perempuan Di Jakart*a," Koneksi, 3.no.2 (2019), page 485–92.

Furthermore, Article 4 paragraph (1) of the Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning the Crime of Sexual Violence (TPKS Law) explicitly identifies non-physical sexual harassment as one of the forms of sexual violence. This provision confirms that sexual harassment does not necessarily involve physical contact, but also includes verbal or non-verbal conduct that violates another person's dignity or sexual autonomy. Consequently, catcalling falls within the category of non-physical sexual harassment regulated under the Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning the Crime of Sexual Violence (TPKS Law).

More specifically, Article 5 of the Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning the Crime of Sexual Violence (TPKS Law) provides that any person who commits non-physical sexual acts directed at another person's body, sexual desire, or reproductive organs with the intention of degrading that person's dignity based on sexuality or morality may be punished with imprisonment for up to nine months and/or a fine of up to Rp10,000,000. Accordingly, catcalling may fulfil the legal elements of non-physical sexual harassment when it contains sexually degrading remarks or expressions intended to humiliate the victim. This provision demonstrates the State's commitment to providing legal protection for victims while ensuring legal certainty in the prosecution of perpetrators.

Therefore, the Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning the Crime of Sexual Violence (TPKS Law) represents significant progress in Indonesian criminal law by providing a clearer legal framework for addressing catcalling as a form of verbal sexual harassment and strengthening the protection of victims' dignity and personal security.

2. Legal Awareness

Legal awareness is one of the essential elements in ensuring the effectiveness of law enforcement. The existence of legal regulations alone is insufficient to achieve legal objectives unless society understands, respects, and complies with those regulations. According to Soerjono Soekanto[13], legal awareness refers to the values that exist within individuals regarding the law, which influence their willingness to obey and implement legal norms in everyday life. Therefore, legal awareness reflects not only knowledge of the law but also an individual's understanding, attitude, and behaviour toward legal provisions.

According to Soerjono Soekanto, legal awareness consists of four indicators. The first is legal knowledge, referring to an individual's awareness of the existence of legal rules governing particular conduct. The second is legal understanding, which

[13] Soerjono Soekanto, "*Kesadaran hukum dan kepatuhan hukum*", 2020, Jakarta : Rajawali Pers, 1982, page 50.

concerns the ability to comprehend the purpose, substance, and application of those legal rules. The third is legal attitude, referring to an individual's appreciation, acceptance, and perception of the importance of legal norms. The fourth is legal behaviour, which reflects the extent to which an individual complies with and implements legal provisions in daily life.

In addition to these indicators, Soerjono Soekanto explains that legal awareness is influenced by several factors, namely the legal substance, law enforcement officers, legal facilities, socio-cultural conditions, and economic factors. These factors collectively influence the extent to which individuals recognise, understand, and comply with legal norms established by the State[14].

In the context of this research, the theory of legal awareness is used to measure the level of legal awareness among female university students regarding catcalling as a form of verbal sexual harassment regulated under Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning the Crime of Sexual Violence. The four indicators proposed by Soerjono Soekanto serve as the analytical framework for assessing whether female students possess adequate legal knowledge, understanding, attitudes, and behaviour concerning catcalling as a criminal offence.

[14] Yana Indawati and Wiwin Yulianingsih, "*Legal Compliance in Realizing the Attitude of Defending the State for College Student UPN Veteran East Java*," *International Journal of Social Science and Human Research*, Vol. 6, No. 1 (2023): page 79–80.

According to Soerjono Soekanto, legal awareness is not only reflected through legal knowledge, understanding, attitudes, and behaviour, but is also influenced by several external factors. These include the quality of legal substance, the performance of law enforcement officers, the availability of legal facilities and infrastructure, socio-cultural conditions, and economic circumstances. The interaction of these factors determines the extent to which individuals recognise, understand, and comply with legal norms. Consequently, differences in legal awareness among members of society may arise due to variations in legal education, access to legal information, social values, and the effectiveness of law enforcement[15].

In this research, these factors are relevant to explaining the level of legal awareness among female university students regarding catcalling. Access to legal information, campus legal education, social and cultural perceptions that normalize catcalling, as well as the effectiveness of legal protection and reporting mechanisms, may influence whether female students recognise catcalling as a criminal offence under the Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning the Crime of Sexual Violence (TPKS Law) and are willing to seek legal remedies.

[15] Anindya Aryu Inayati, Noorma Fitriana M. Zain, Nur Afifah, dan Eko Nur Cahyo, "Trading Digitalization: Legal Awareness in the Disruption Era," *ADZKIYA: Jurnal Hukum dan Ekonomi Syariah* 11, no. 1 (2023): page 4–5.

3. Legal protection

Legal protection refers to the legal safeguards provided by the State to ensure that every individual enjoys recognition, respect, and protection of their rights against unlawful acts. The primary purpose of legal protection is to guarantee legal certainty, justice, and equal treatment before the law while preventing violations of individual rights. In the context of sexual harassment, legal protection seeks to safeguard victims from physical and psychological harm, provide access to justice, and ensure that perpetrators are held accountable in accordance with applicable laws[16].

According to Philipus M. Hadjon[17], legal protection consists of two forms: preventive legal protection and repressive legal protection. Preventive legal protection aims to prevent legal disputes through legislation, legal education, public awareness, and institutional mechanisms that minimize the occurrence of rights violations. Meanwhile, repressive legal protection is implemented after a legal violation has occurred through law enforcement, judicial proceedings, and the imposition of sanctions on perpetrators to restore justice for victims.

[16] ADCO Law, "Legal Protection for the Community", https://adcolaw.com/blog/legal-protection-for-the-community/, Accessed on 2 July 2026.

[17] Philipus M. Hadjon, *Perlindungan Hukum Bagi Rakyat di Indonesia* (Surabaya: PT Bina Ilmu, 1987), page 25.

In relation to this research, legal protection is reflected in the enactment of Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning the Crime of Sexual Violence (TPKS Law), which explicitly recognise non-physical sexual harassment as a criminal offence. The Law not only criminalizes perpetrators of catcalling that fulfil the legal elements of non-physical sexual harassment but also guarantees victims' rights to protection, recovery, and access to justice. Although legal awareness and legal protection are examined as distinct frameworks in this research, the two are not unrelated. Preventive legal protection, as conceived by Hadjon, operates as the mechanism through which the first two indicators of Soekanto's framework, legal knowledge and legal understanding, are formed, since a population cannot know or understand a law that has not been disseminated to it. Legal awareness does not itself constitute protection; rather, its fourth indicator, legal behaviour, functions as the condition upon which repressive legal protection is activated, given that repressive protection depends upon a report having been made. The relationship between the two frameworks is accordingly one of sequence rather than equivalence: preventive protection shapes awareness, and the behavioural dimension of that awareness is the point at which repressive protection is invoked, or fails to be invoked, depending on conditions that remain within the control of the duty bearers identified later in this chapter.

## F. Operational Definitions

This section briefly explains the terms used in this research discussion to avoid misunderstandings. The definitions of this operation is mentioned as follows:

1. Legal Awareness

Legal awareness refers to the knowledge, understanding, attitudes, and behaviour of female students regarding the legal provisions governing catcalling as a criminal act of verbal sexual harassment according to Law No. 12 of 2022 concerning TPKS. This legal awareness includes all students who know the applicable provisions, understand the content of the rules, including sanctions and victims' rights, have a legal attitude that considers catcalling as a wrong or degrading act, and show behavior in accordance with the rules.

2. Legal Protection

Legal protection in this study refers to the concept formulated by Philipus M. Hadjon, which consists of preventive legal protection that is, measures taken to prevent violations from occurring and repressive legal protection that is, measures taken after a violation has occurred. In this study, both forms are understood as obligations that must be fulfilled by the state, law enforcement officials, integrated service units, and institutions of

higher education not by the victims. The scope of this study is limited to non-physical sexual harassment in the form of catcalling experienced by female college students in the Sleman Regency.

3. Level of Legal Awareness

The level of legal awareness in this research refers to the position of a respondent's score on a five point Likert scale, converted into a percentage and classified according to the interval criteria set out in Chapter I, Section G. A score is classified as very low (0 to 20 per cent), low (21 to 40 per cent), moderate (41 to 60 per cent), high (61 to 80 per cent) or very high (81 to 100 per cent). The classification refers exclusively to the score obtained on the research instrument and does not by itself indicate the adequacy of legal protection.

4. Students

Female undergraduate (S1) students enrolled at public or private universities in Sleman Regency.

5. Catcalling

Sexual remarks, whistling, comments, gestures, or expressions made in public or semi-public spaces aimed at women without the recipient's consent and intended to degrade or humiliate the victim.

6. Non-Physical Sexual Harassment

A form of sexual violence that is carried out through unwanted words, words, or statements of sexual nuances, which cause discomfort, threats, or degradation in the victim.

7. Sleman Regency

The administrative area of Sleman Regency as a data collection area, including universities in the area.

8. Sexual Violence Crime Law (TPKS Law)

The main legal basis in this research, especially Article 5 which regulates non-physical sexual violence. It also serves as the legal reference for assessing students' knowledge regarding catcalling.

## G. Research Methodology

1. Types of Research

This research employs empirical legal research. Empirical legal research examines how law operates in society (law in action), particularly by analysing legal awareness, legal protection and public responses toward legal norms. In this research, the empirical approach is used to analyse the legal awareness of female university students regarding catcalling as a criminal offence regulated under Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning Sexual Violence Crimes (TPKS

Law). The applicable statutory regulations and legal doctrines are used as supporting legal materials to provide the normative framework for analysing the empirical findings. Accordingly, Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning Sexual Violence Crimes, the Criminal Code, and other relevant legislation serve as the legal basis for interpreting the research results.

This research is descriptive analytical because it aims to provide a systematic, factual, and accurate description of the level of legal awareness of female university students regarding catcalling as a form of non-physical sexual harassment and the implementation of legal protection for victims under Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning Sexual Violence Crimes. The analysis is conducted by interpreting the empirical data collected from respondents and relating the findings to the applicable criminal law provisions and relevant legal theories in order to examine the implementation of criminal law concerning catcalling in society.

This research employs a quantitative technique for data collection and processing within an empirical legal research framework. Although the quantitative technique is not the technique conventionally employed in legal research, which is predominantly doctrinal and qualitative, its use is methodologically justified where the research question concerns the distribution of a legal

phenomenon within a population rather than the meaning of a legal norm.[18]

The first research question asks about the level of legal awareness among female students, that is, about a condition that varies in degree across a population. A question of that character cannot adequately be answered through a small number of interviews, because the result would not indicate the extent to which the condition is distributed. A structured instrument administered to a larger number of respondents allows that distribution to be measured and its consistency to be tested.[19]

The quantitative technique in this research therefore serves as an instrument and not as an objective. The statistical results are not treated as findings in themselves, but as empirical material which is subsequently interpreted through Soerjono Soekanto's theory of legal awareness and Philipus M. Hadjon's theory of legal protection in order to answer the research questions. The legal analysis, and not the statistical output, constitutes the substance of this research.[20]

The technique employed is descriptive rather than inferential. The research questions concern the level of legal awareness within a population and the condition of the legal

[18] Lee Epstein and Andrew D. Martin, *An Introduction to Empirical Legal Research* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014), page 3–12.

[19] Peter Cane and Herbert M. Kritzer, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Empirical Legal Research* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010), page 1–25.

[20] Sulistyowati Irianto and Shidarta, eds., *Metode Penelitian Hukum: Konstelasi dan Refleksi* (Jakarta: Yayasan Pustaka Obor Indonesia, 2011), page 1–20.

protection available to it, and neither requires the estimation of a causal relationship. Descriptive statistics and cross-tabulation are accordingly the techniques appropriate to the questions asked.

2. Approach Method

To achieve a comprehensive analysis, this research applies several legal approaches as follows:

a. Statutory Approach

This approach examines the provisions of the law governing sexual harassment and gender-based violence in Indonesia. Key legal materials include:

1) Law No. 12 of 2022 concerning the Crime of Sexual Violence (TPKS Law)
2) Law Number 39 of 1999 concerning Human Rights (Human Rights Law)
3) Indonesian Criminal Code (KUHP)

This approach is used to understand how Indonesian law conceptualizes and criminalizes verbal harassment such as catcalling.

b. Empirical Approach

The empirical approach evaluates the real experiences, perceptions, and responses of female students to catcalling in daily life in Sleman. This research assesses the knowledge, understanding, attitudes, and experiences of

female students about catcalling as a form of verbal sexual harassment through the collection of primary data through questionnaires. This method allows researchers to find the difference between the applicable legal regulations and the actual situation in the field. This approach also enables the researcher to identify the social, cultural, and personal elements that affect the legal awareness of female students in Sleman.

c. Sociological Approach

This research applies a sociological approach, also referred to as a socio-legal approach, which examines law not merely as a system of norms but as a social phenomenon operating within society.[21] Through this approach, Law Number 12 of 2022 on Sexual Violence Crimes is examined not only in terms of the norms it contains but also in terms of how those norms are known, understood and responded to by the community to which they are addressed. This approach is appropriate because the central issue of this research is the gap between the norm (das sollen) and social reality (das sein): although catcalling has been criminalised, victims rarely resort to legal remedies. The sociological approach enables the researcher to examine the social and

[21] Soerjono Soekanto, *Pengantar Penelitian Hukum* (Jakarta: UI Press, 1986), page 51.

cultural factors underlying that gap, including the normalisation of catcalling, victim-blaming attitudes and limited access to legal information.[22]

d. Research Object

This research measures the level of legal awareness of female students in Sleman Regency regarding catcalling as a form of non-physical sexual harassment under the TPKS Law, and the legal protection available to them as victims of that conduct. Soerjono Soekanto identifies four indicators of legal awareness, namely legal knowledge, legal understanding, legal attitude and legal behaviour. This research measures all four: legal knowledge through the respondent's awareness that catcalling is regulated under the TPKS Law, legal understanding through her comprehension of the content of that Law, legal attitude through her disposition toward the conduct, and legal behaviour through the action she would take upon being subjected to it.

e. Research Subject and Instrument

The research subjects consist of female undergraduate students in Sleman Regency, and the Women and Children Service Unit of the Criminal Investigation (Satreskrim) of the Polresta Sleman, the agency responsible

[22] Reza Banakar and Max Travers, eds., Theory and Method in Socio-Legal Research (Oxford: Hart Publishing, 2005), page 1–25.

for receiving and handling reports of non-physical sexual harassment in the relevant area. The instrument consists of fourteen closed questions covering the respondent's familiarity with catcalling and its source, her experience of the conduct and its location, her knowledge and understanding of the TPKS Law, her attitude toward the conduct, the action she would take, and the legal education and reporting mechanism provided by her institution. Three of the fourteen questions employ a five point scale, namely question 7 on the respondent's understanding of the content of the TPKS Law, question 9 on her attitude toward catcalling, and question 10 on whether she regards catcalling as degrading to the dignity of women; the remaining eleven are categorical.

3. Research Location

This research was conducted in the city of Sleman, especially in major universities with large student populations such as Universitas Islam Indonesia (UII), Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), Universitas Pembangunan Nasional Veteran (UPN) Yogyakarta, Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta, etc. This location was chosen because Sleman is known as a student city with high mobility and exposure to non-physical sexual harassment.

4. Research Data Sources

a. Primary Data

The main data of this research was obtained through the distribution of questionnaires to female students in Sleman Regency. To measure legal awareness of catcalling as a form of verbal sexual harassment, the questionnaire was systematically compiled.

In addition to the questionnaire, primary data were collected through semi-structured interviews with Cahya Fitriana, S.H., Head of the Women and Children Service Unit (PPA) at the Criminal Investigation Unit (Satreskrim) of the Polresta Sleman, which were conducted to gather data on the implementation of legal protection from the perspective of the duty bearers. The interview addressed the number of reports of non-physical sexual harassment received and how they were handled, the procedures followed, the evidentiary and procedural obstacles encountered, the preventive activities undertaken by the police, and the forms of protection provided to victims. It was recorded with the consent of the informant and transcribed in full; the transcript is set out in Appendix III. The interview data were analyse qualitatively and used to

supplement the questionnaire data in answering the second research question.

Although the questionnaire respondents were drawn from female students in Sleman Regency, the campuses at which the majority of them study including the Universitas Islam Indonesia, Universitas Gadjah Mada, and Universitas Pembangunan Nasional Veteran Yogyakarta are located within the administrative territory of Sleman Regency, so that conduct occurring in and around those campuses falls within the jurisdiction of the Polresta Sleman. That Unit is accordingly the law enforcement institution to which a report by a student in that area would in practice be directed.

b. Secondary Data

The secondary data used in this research are:

1) Primary Legal Materials, which are binding legal materials, consisting of:

a) The Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia in 1945;

- Article 28D paragraph (1): The right to fair legal recognition, guarantee, protection, and certainty
- Article 28G paragraph (1): Right to personal protection, honor, dignity, and security

b) Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning the Crime of Sexual Violence. Arrangements regarding forms of sexual violence, including verbal sexual harassment;
c) Law No. 39 of 1999 concerning Human Rights. Provisions on the protection of human rights, in particular the right to security and protection from degrading treatment;
d) Indonesian Criminal Code (KUHP). Provisions related to decency and protection of victims.

2) Secondary Legal Sources, which are legal materials that explain primary legal materials consisting of:
a) Academic books in the field of law, particularly those that discuss legal awareness, legal protection, and sexual violence;
b) Research results and scientific papers relevant to the research topic;
c) National law journals related to research topics;
d) Reports of related institutions, such as Komnas Perempuan;

e) Legal experts' opinions on legal awareness and victim protection.

5. Data Collection Techniques

a. Primary Data

Using the purposive accidental sampling, questionnaires were distributed to selected female students in Sleman Regency. The structured questionnaire was distributed online via Google Forms. In this research, the Likert scale was used to measure respondents' legal awareness of catcalling, which included metrics such as legal knowledge, legal understanding, legal attitudes, and legal behavior. And also interview with the relevant law enforcement authorities.

b. Secondary Data

The secondary data collection method involves reviewing a variety of predetermined literature materials in primary, secondary, and tertiary legal materials relevant to the research problem.

6. Data Analysis

The data collected were processed with the assistance of the Microsoft Excel through four stages. First, coding and tabulation. The responses to each closed question were converted into

numerical codes in accordance with a coding key, and were tabulated in a single matrix of 125 rows, one for each respondent, and fourteen columns, one for each question. The identity of respondents was removed and replaced with the codes R1 to R125. The coding key and the tabulation are set out in Appendix VII.

Second, frequency distribution. The frequency of each response category was computed and expressed as a percentage of the total of 125 respondents. This procedure was applied to every question in the instrument.

Third, index scores for the ordinal items. Three questions employ a five-point scale. For each, the mean score was computed and expressed as an index by dividing that mean by the maximum attainable score of five and multiplying the result by one hundred. The resulting index was classified according to the interval criteria set out in Table 1.2 below. For the remaining questions, which are categorical, the proportion of respondents selecting the relevant category was classified according to the same criteria.

Fourth, cross-tabulation. Selected pairs of questions were cross-tabulated in order to examine the association between them, in particular between the respondent's knowledge and understanding of Law Number 12 of 2022 and the action she would take upon being subjected to catcalling, and between the provision made by her institution and that same action. Cross-tabulation describes the

association between two variables within the sample; it does not establish a causal relationship, and no such relationship is asserted in this research. The results obtained through these stages are interpreted through Soerjono Soekanto's theory of legal awareness in order to answer the first research question, and through Philipus M. Hadjon's theory of legal protection, read together with the provisions of the TPKS Law concerning the obligations of duty bearers, in order to answer the second. The statistical results are not treated as findings in themselves but as empirical material for that interpretation.

Table 1.2 Interval Criteria for the Classification of Scores

| **Percentage Interval** | **Category** |
|---|---|
| 0% – 20% | Very low |
| 21% – 40% | Low |
| 41% – 60% | Moderate |
| 61% – 80% | High |
| 81% – 100% | Very high |

Source: Riduwan, Skala Pengukuran Variabel-Variabel Penelitian (Bandung: Alfabeta, 2015), page 15.

For the three questions employing a five-point scale, the percentage was obtained by dividing the mean score by the maximum score of five and multiplying the result by one hundred. An index of 69.92

per cent, for example, falls within the interval of 61 to 80 per cent and is accordingly classified as high. For the categorical questions, the percentage is the proportion of respondents selecting the relevant category, and is classified according to the same intervals.

Two qualifications attach to this classification. First, the intervals are of equal width and are not derived from the data, so that figures which are numerically close, such as 76.00 per cent and 69.92 per cent, fall within the same category and the difference between them is not treated as substantively significant in this research. Second, the classification describes the position of a figure on the measuring instrument only. It does not by itself establish that legal protection is adequate; the relationship between the figure obtained and the adequacy of legal protection is a matter for legal analysis and is addressed in Chapter III.

A third qualification concerns the basis of measurement. Two of the four indicators of legal awareness are measured through a five-point scale and are expressed as an index derived from the mean, while the other two are measured through categorical questions and are expressed as the proportion of respondents selecting the relevant category. The interval criteria are applied to both, but the resulting figures are not measurements of the same kind and are not treated in this research as strictly comparable quantities.

## H. Structure of Writing

Chapter I

This chapter discusses the Introduction section, which consists of the Problem Background, Problem Formulation, Research Objectives, Research Originality, Brief Literature Review, Operational Definition, Research Methodology, and Writing Systematics. All of these elements provide a general overview of the urgency of research on female students' legal awareness of catcalling as a form of verbal sexual harassment in Sleman.

Chapter II

This chapter contains a theoretical framework relevant to this research, The discussion included legal awareness, and legal protection. This chapter also summarizes the perspective of Islam regarding catcalling.

Chapter II.

This chapter analyse the respondents' level of legal awareness regarding catcalling based on empirical data collected through questionnaires and examines the legal protection available for victims of catcalling under Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning Sexual Violence Crimes (TPKS Law).

Chapter IV

This chapter contains conclusions that are the answers to the formulation of the problem based on the results of the research and