

Challenges in Implementing the Principle of Non-Revictimization of Victims of Sexual Violence in the Reporting Process

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Abstract: Sexual violence represents a grave social and legal problem that inflicts not only physical harm but also profound psychological trauma on victims. The principle of non-revictimization is established to safeguard victims from experiencing repeated harm, both mentally and socially, throughout the criminal justice process. This study seeks to analyze the obstacles in implementing the principle of non-revictimization for victims of sexual violence using a juridical-normative methodology. The results indicate that, although the principle has been codified in Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning Crimes of Sexual Violence, its enforcement continues to face significant challenges. Among these are the limited understanding of victims' perspectives by law enforcement officers, the predominance of a positivistic legal approach that neglects victims' psychological conditions, and the persistence of patriarchal cultural norms that contribute to stigma and victim-blaming. Moreover, social and economic constraints further restrict victims' access to legal protection and rehabilitation services. Effective enforcement of the principle of non-revictimization requires strong institutional commitment, enhanced law enforcement competence, and active community engagement, so that the legal process is conducted fairly, humanely, and with the victim's perspective as a guiding principle. This study provides recommendations for strengthening the implementation of non-revictimization in practice.

Keywords: Sexual Violence; Non-Revictimization Principle; Law Enforcement; Institutional Commitment; Legal Protection; Community Engagement; Rehabilitation Services; Patriarchal Cultural.

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1. Introduction

The issue of sexual violence remains a critical and persistent problem in contemporary society. Sexual violence transcends age, gender, social status, and location, indicating that anyone can become a victim, whether in public spaces or private settings. The consequences extend beyond physical harm to encompass profound psychological trauma, which may have long-term effects on the victim's life [1]. Protecting victims of sexual violence is therefore a fundamental effort to uphold justice and safeguard human rights [2]. The present study also situates itself within the state of the art by comparing three prior studies published in national and international journals, demonstrating both the limitations of previous research and the distinct

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contribution of the current study [3]. Sexual violence encompasses all forms of sexual activity, whether accompanied by physical assault or not [4]. Violence involving assault generally results in physical injuries, whereas sexual violence without assault primarily inflicts emotional trauma [5]. Forms of sexual violence may include being seduced, touched or groped, forcibly hugged, grabbed, coerced into masturbation, compelled to engage in oral or anal sex, or even subjected to rape [6]. In addition to the actual assault, victims may also face sexual violence in the aftermath of the assault, particularly when they are reporting the crime to police enforcement [7].

Often called revictimization or secondary victimization, this phenomenon emphasizes how victims may experience recurrent suffering due to insufficient responses from the legal system or society at large. Insensitive questioning, victim-blaming attitudes, a lack of confidentiality, or procedural delays that exacerbate the victim's suffering are just a few examples of how victimization can seem [8]. The pervasive belief that victims of sexual abuse are more likely to be subjected to similar acts of violence in the future is one of the elements causing revictimization to continue [9]. In addition to feeding negative stereotypes, this view deters victims from pursuing justice because they can worry about being questioned, condemned, or retraumatized in the process [10]. Furthermore, the probability of recurring injury is increased by the power disparity in institutional and societal institutions, as well as the cultural stigmas associated with sexual violence [11]. Law enforcement in cases of sexual violence must be carried out based on strict principles, with severe penalties for perpetrators and maximum legal protection for victims [12]. The protection of justice for victims of sexual violence must be carried out with great care to avoid the threat of revictimization, especially by law enforcement officials [13]. Revictimization is a problem that arises as a result of negative public responses to victims after they have experienced a crime [14]. Revictimization occurs when victims suffer again, both psychologically and socially, due to insensitive legal processes or treatment by authorities that further victimize them [15].

Revictimization can manifest in various forms, such as repeated examinations, questions that put victims on the defensive, or social pressure that makes victims reluctant to report the crimes they have experienced. The enforcement of the principle of non-revictimization is regulated in Law No. 12 of 2022 concerning Sexual Violence Crimes. This regulation explicitly requires law enforcement officials and all relevant parties to ensure that victims do not experience repeated suffering during the case-handling process. However, in practice, it is still common to find cases where victims of sexual violence are re-victimized. This situation highlights a significant gap between the regulations in place and their implementation on the ground, necessitating commitment, oversight, and capacity-building for law enforcement officials to consistently uphold the principle of non-revictimization. The occurrence of revictimization serves as evidence of the distressing weakness in the implementation of the principle of non-revictimization. There are many obstacles to the practical application of the victimological approach, especially regarding the non-revictimization principle. Even if laws like Law No. 12 of 2022 on Sexual Violence Crimes explicitly recognize and regulate this principle, in practice, its application remains far from ideal. The implementation of a victim-centered justice system is hampered by institutional, cultural, and structural constraints, reflected in the discrepancy between normative legislation and actual practice.

2. Method

This research method uses a legal-normative approach, which means that legal research is a study that is constructed and formulated based on doctrines derived from norms, rules, principles, theories, philosophies, and legal provisions, to find solutions or answers to legal problems, whether related to legal vacuums, conflicts of norms, or ambiguities in legal rules. This action was taken to obtain conclusions related to sexual violence, the application of the principle of non-revictimization, and various obstacles encountered in its implementation. The data sources in this study included both primary and secondary legal materials. Primary legal materials include the Law on Sexual Violence Crimes, the Law on Witness and Victim Protection, and various international legal instruments. Meanwhile, secondary legal materials consist of scientific journals, books, and academic studies related to the principle of non-revictimization. Data collection was conducted through a literature review and analysis of legislation, international legal documents, and academic publications. The data were then analyzed qualitatively using content analysis to assess the effectiveness of existing legal provisions and identify weaknesses requiring legal reform.

3. Analysis and Discussion

3.1. The Concept of Non-Revictimization in Victimology

3.1.1. Definition of Non-Revictimization

The Revictimization is known as repeated violence against victims, referring to the process in which individuals who have previously experienced sexual violence experience sexual violence again. Revictimization comes from the word victimize, which means to make someone a victim, while the prefix re- indicates repetition. Thus, revictimization is defined as a condition in which a person repeatedly experiences actions that make them a victim. The principle of non-revictimization is a principle in the criminal justice system that aims to protect victims from experiencing repeated psychological and social suffering during

the law enforcement process. In the context of sexual violence, victims are often subjected to repeated examinations, confrontational questions, and insensitive treatment of their emotional and psychological conditions. Such situations risk exacerbating the trauma already experienced and may even cause new wounds not only from the criminal act itself but also from the legal process itself.

In the victimology approach, victims are positioned as legal subjects who are entitled to justice, security, and dignified recovery. This perspective emphasizes the importance of considering the victim's experiences, specific needs, and the psychosocial impacts they have endured, to ensure that the legal process does not exacerbate their existing circumstances. Therefore, the principle of non-revictimization requires that every stage of the legal enforcement process be conducted with empathy and humanity, including by avoiding practices that blame, demean, or intimidate the victim. The implementation of this principle is not only an integral part of criminal justice procedures but also a concrete manifestation of the fulfillment of human rights, particularly the right to justice, protection, and redress. Justice should not be narrowly defined as the mere imposition of punishment on perpetrators, but must also ensure that victims are shielded from further harm inflicted by the very legal system intended to protect them. In this sense, the principle of non-revictimization becomes a critical indicator of whether a justice system truly upholds human dignity. A victim-centered legal process must therefore ensure that victims are treated with respect, empathy, and sensitivity, recognizing their vulnerability and specific needs.

3.1.2. National and International Legal Basis

The principle of non-revictimization in the protection of victims of sexual violence has a clear legal basis, both in national legislation and international provisions. At the national level, Law No. 12 of 2022 on Sexual Violence Crimes (TPKS Law) serves as the primary legal framework for protecting and supporting victims. This law emphasizes the importance of treating victims of sexual violence humanely, fairly, and from a victim-centered perspective, including by preventing actions that could exacerbate the victim's psychological condition during the legal process. In addition, Law No. 31 of 2014 on Witness and Victim Protection also protects victims' rights to receive protection, assistance, and a sense of security during criminal proceedings. This protection aims to prevent victims from experiencing pressure, intimidation, or treatment that could cause additional trauma. Meanwhile, Law No. 39 of 1999 on Human Rights emphasizes respect for human dignity, including in the enforcement of the law, while the Criminal Procedure Code requires law enforcement officials to respect the human rights of every individual in the performance of their duties. At the international level, the United Nations Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power emphasizes the importance of treating victims with respect and preventing treatment that could worsen their condition during legal proceedings. The need for nations to eradicate discrimination and provide effective protection for women is emphasized in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which Indonesia adopted through Law No. 7 of 1984.

The elimination of gender-based violence, which is acknowledged as a serious form of discrimination against women, is one of the main issues covered by CEDAW. In this context, CEDAW calls on state parties—including Indonesia—to enact comprehensive policies that guarantee sufficient protection and assistance for women who have already been victims, in addition to preventing violence. This involves protecting their rights and dignity throughout the entire judicial process, as they are frequently at risk of becoming victims again. The necessity of bringing national legal systems into compliance with international human rights norms is highlighted by CEDAW's obligation. For Indonesia, this means that laws such as Law No. 12 of 2022 on Sexual Violence Crimes should be enacted alongside robust safeguards to ensure their implementation. In addition to undermining the legal system, the nation's failure to enforce these laws violates its international obligations. In addition, the Beijing Platform for Action contains an international commitment to provide access to justice for women victims of violence without causing further trauma. This is in line with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which was ratified through Law No. 12 of 2005, guaranteeing that everyone is free from degrading treatment, including in the context of judicial proceedings. Based on this legal framework, it is clear that the principle of non-revictimization is not only a moral obligation but also a legally binding mandate for law enforcement authorities. This principle aims to ensure that the legal process truly serves as a means of recovery and protection for victims, rather than becoming a new source of suffering for them.

3.1.3. The Relationship between the Principle of Non-Revictimization and Victims' Human Rights

The principle of non-revictimization is closely related to the fulfillment of victims' human rights in the criminal justice system. As individuals who have experienced violations of their rights to safety and dignity through criminal acts, victims have the right to be restored and obtain justice without suffering additional pain in the law enforcement process. This principle emphasizes that the criminal justice system should not be a source of new trauma for victims, but rather a space for victims to obtain protection, recognition, and recovery from the violations they have experienced. The human rights of victims include the right to be treated humanely, free from degrading treatment, and the right to protection from all forms of intimidation and pressure during the legal process. This is in accordance with the provisions of Law No. 39 of 1999 on Human Rights, as well

as international instruments such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which guarantees every individual's right to be free from inhumane treatment, including in the context of law enforcement. The principle of non-revictimization is a tangible way to protect victims' human rights by ensuring that legal proceedings are conducted empathetically and from the victim's perspective. In cases of sexual violence, the implementation of this principle is crucial to prevent insensitive repeated examinations, confrontational questioning, and the actions of law enforcement officials that may exacerbate the trauma already experienced by the victim. Thus, the application of the principle of non-revictimization is not only part of criminal judicial procedures but also a form of the state's respect for the victim's right to obtain justice and recovery with dignity.

3.2. Forms of Revictimization Experienced by Victims of Sexual Violence

3.2.1. Revictimization in the Reporting Process

Although the principle of non-revictimization of victims of sexual violence has been regulated in Law Number 12 of 2022 concerning Criminal Acts of Sexual Violence, the implementation of the legal process still faces various obstacles. One of the main obstacles to implementing legal protection is the lack of understanding among law enforcement officials of the victim's perspective, as well as the limited supportive facilities that can create a sense of safety for victims during the judicial process. Indonesian criminal law, including provisions in the TPKS Law, addresses sexual violence by providing comprehensive protection for victims. This protection encompasses legal cultural aspects, legal institutional structures, legal aid services, individual protection, psychosocial support, and rehabilitation efforts. Victims of violence have the right to feel safe and comfortable throughout the ongoing legal process. Law enforcement officials, particularly the police, as the first institution to which victims report, play a crucial role in ensuring this protection. Victims must be shielded from all forms of threats or intimidation throughout the legal process, including through mechanisms for protecting witnesses and victims as a means of preventing revictimization. Therefore, law enforcement officials must possess not only a deep understanding of the legal framework but also a high level of sensitivity when dealing with situations involving victims of sexual violence. Handling such cases cannot be approached solely from a legalistic perspective; rather, it requires a holistic approach that integrates legal, psychological, and social dimensions. Proper handling entails recognizing victims' vulnerability, respecting their dignity, and ensuring that the process itself does not become an additional source of harm. In this context, trauma-informed practices become not merely an option but an essential standard in handling cases of sexual violence. A trauma-informed approach recognizes that victims are not only witnesses or complainants in a legal process but also individuals who carry the psychological wounds of violence that can be reactivated through insensitive procedures.

Law enforcement officers, therefore, need adequate training to conduct investigations and examinations in ways that minimize stress, prevent retraumatization, and foster a supportive environment in which victims feel safe to share their experiences. Such training should cover aspects such as empathetic listening, sensitivity in framing questions, respect for personal boundaries, and an understanding of trauma symptoms that may influence how victims recall or narrate their experiences. When communication is handled with sensitivity and compassion, the likelihood of retraumatization is significantly reduced, and victims are more likely to cooperate and trust the justice system. Equally critical is protecting confidentiality and privacy throughout the reporting and investigative process. Breaches of confidentiality, whether through careless handling of personal data, leaks to the media, or indiscreet remarks by officials, can inflict serious psychological harm on victims and subject them to public scrutiny or social backlash. For many survivors, fear of exposure is one of the primary reasons they hesitate to report sexual violence. Thus, safeguarding confidentiality is not only a matter of procedural compliance but also a moral obligation to uphold the dignity and security of victims. In addition, access to psychological counseling, trauma therapy, and medical assistance should be integrated into the victim-handling framework, ensuring that legal processes are complemented by holistic recovery support. Such integration reinforces the principle of non-revictimization by acknowledging that justice cannot be separated from the victim's well-being. Revictimization during the legal process often manifests in subtle yet deeply damaging ways. One common example is the requirement for victims to undergo repeated examinations and recount their traumatic experiences multiple times to different officials. While intended to gather accurate information, this practice frequently results in retraumatization, as victims are forced to relive painful events without adequate emotional safeguards.

Similarly, excessively intense or adversarial questioning can make victims feel cornered, distrusted, or even as though they are on trial themselves. These experiences create an environment in which victims feel alienated rather than supported, leading to reluctance or outright withdrawal from the pursuit of justice. Furthermore, the lack of awareness and sensitivity among officials can result in the distortion or misrepresentation of victims' statements. When investigators fail to approach victims with empathy or lack proper training in trauma-informed interviewing, their interpretations may mischaracterize the survivors' accounts. This not only undermines victims' credibility in the eyes of the law but also deepens their sense of being unheard and misunderstood. The problem is further compounded by the persistence of victim-blaming attitudes among some officials, who may imply that the victim's behavior, clothing, or past relationships contributed to the violence they experienced. Such treatment reinforces harmful cultural narratives, shifts responsibility away from perpetrators, and inflicts additional

psychological harm on victims who are already in a disadvantaged position. Ultimately, these practices reveal how the absence of trauma-informed, victim-centered approaches perpetuates systemic revictimization within the justice process. By failing to recognize the complex emotional and psychological dimensions of sexual violence, the legal system risks alienating those it is meant to protect. Addressing this gap requires a paradigm shift in law enforcement culture, one that centers on the dignity, security, and recovery of victims in all investigative and judicial procedures. Victim blaming occurs when individuals who are victims of crime are instead considered guilty and held responsible for the crime that befell them. The disclosure of victims' privacy can also be a form of revictimization experienced by victims during the reporting process. Violations of privacy rights clearly have serious consequences, particularly for the mental health of victims of sexual violence. One factor contributing to the high incidence of sexual violence is the lack of reports from victims as the aggrieved party. This occurs because victims generally fear various risks associated with reporting the incident, such as the risk of being humiliated.

3.2.2. Social Revictimization

Social revictimization occurs when victims experience social judgment, stigma, or exclusion after reporting sexual violence, thereby affecting their mental health and making them reluctant to seek justice. Patriarchal culture is one of the reasons for social revictimization. Patriarchy is a system based on the view that boys have a responsibility to improve the status of women, which is still prevalent in society. In environments that strongly uphold patriarchal culture, the division of roles, rights, and obligations between boys and girls is often unequal. This affects differences in parenting and education provided to boys and girls. Women experience most cases of violence in Indonesia, but that doesn't mean men can't be victims too. This might be because of how society sees men and the stereotype that all men think sex is always fun (all sex is good sex). Such stereotypes can make it difficult for victims to come forward and report when they experience sexual harassment. Victims of sexual violence often experience revictimization, which is unintentionally perpetuated by society, rooted in deeply ingrained and difficult-to-change patterns of thinking. Society often still holds onto harmful patriarchal values or biased perspectives, such as blaming the victim for what they have experienced or viewing the topic of sexual violence as something shameful and taboo to discuss. Someone who has been a victim of sexual violence also experiences discrimination from those around them. Victims who should be receiving a sense of security and protection often face discrimination and negative judgments from society. Many people assume that the sexual violence experienced by victims is caused by the victim's own attitude or appearance, which is perceived as provoking such actions. This assumption tends to blame the victim for something they did not do and instead attacks them as victims of sexual violence. In general, violence and discrimination against women occur due to various factors:

- Some of these include cultural influences that increasingly lose respect for norms of modesty in dress, which are considered to provoke others to commit indecent acts or crimes.
- The increasingly liberal lifestyle and social interactions between men and women also contribute to this issue.
- Another factor is the perpetrator's desire to take revenge for the victim's perceived hurtful or harmful attitude, words, or behavior. Equally important, violence also arises because perpetrators are unable to control their emotions and sexual desires, allowing their sexual desires to run wild and leading to inhumane actions.

Discrimination against men who are victims of sexual violence occurs within society. Although sexual violence against men does not occur as frequently as against women, it cannot be ignored. This neglect occurs across recognition, regulations, and policies. The lack of reports from victims to law enforcement authorities, low public awareness, and the focus of sexual violence response efforts being directed primarily toward women are evidence of discrimination against men who are survivors of sexual violence. Society often constructs men as the stronger, more masculine, and dominant gender, a stereotype that carries serious implications for how sexual violence against men is perceived. This entrenched belief fosters the misconception that men cannot, or should not, be victims of sexual violence, as victimhood is considered incompatible with traditional notions of masculinity. As a result, male victims are often burdened with additional layers of stigma that go beyond the trauma of the violence itself. They may experience confusion, fear, guilt, and profound shame, not only due to the incident but also because of societal expectations that men must always be resilient and invulnerable. This social construction silences many male victims, discouraging them from reporting their experiences or seeking legal and psychological support. Furthermore, the lack of recognition and acknowledgment of male victimization perpetuates their marginalization within the justice system and broader social discourse. Ultimately, such misconceptions hinder the implementation of victim-centered approaches and weaken the broader effort to combat sexual violence in all its forms, regardless of gender.

3.3. Factors Hindering the Implementation of the Principle of Non-Revictimization

3.3.1. Internal Factors of the Police Force

In practice, the application of the principle of non-revictimization still faces various challenges. This principle aims to ensure that victims do not experience further violence, whether physical, psychological, or social, during or after the legal process. The implementation of this principle requires serious attention, appropriate handling, and a high level of professionalism from

the parties involved, especially law enforcement officials. Victim support must be provided in a clear, sensitive, and professional manner, as victims often find themselves in fragile mental and physical states due to the trauma they have experienced. Without consistent application of this principle, victims risk enduring repeated suffering that could exacerbate their psychological wounds. Revictimization experienced by victims when reporting to the police as a law enforcement agency can take the form of repeated questioning, intimidating questions that make victims feel cornered, and victim-blaming or the tendency to blame victims for what happened to them. Additionally, when victims provide their statements, only a positivistic approach is taken, focusing solely on the victim's background without considering evidence of sexual violence, and employing an unprofessional communication style that ignores the victim's psychological condition and instead causes further harm to the victim themselves.

Barriers to implementing the principle of non-revictimization are multifaceted and often rooted in institutional and cultural shortcomings. One of the most pressing challenges is the lack of competence among police officers and other law enforcement officials in handling cases of sexual violence, particularly in the sensitive process of obtaining victims' statements. Frequently, victims are subjected to repeated questioning that is intrusive, leading to retraumatization rather than facilitating justice. This is compounded by the persistence of a positivistic approach in criminal investigations, where the focus is disproportionately placed on the victim's background or character rather than on the material evidence of sexual violence itself. Such practices not only undermine the credibility of victims but also reinforce harmful stereotypes that discourage reporting. Moreover, the absence of empathetic communication during interactions with victims neglects the psychological dimension of sexual violence, disregarding the trauma that survivors carry. This lack of sensitivity often results in additional harm, effectively contradicting the principle of non-revictimization. While Law No. 13 of 2006 concerning the Protection of Witnesses and Victims provides explicit guarantees of protection during criminal proceedings, its implementation remains far from ideal. Challenges persist, particularly the low level of understanding and awareness among law enforcement officials regarding victims' rights, as well as the absence of sufficient monitoring and accountability mechanisms to ensure compliance.

3.3.2. Cultural and Social Factors

The patriarchal culture that is still deeply rooted in society often positions women as guardians of family honor. When sexual violence occurs, victims are often considered to have humiliated their families, resulting in pressure from family and community not to pursue legal action. As a result, victims must endure trauma without adequate support and recovery, even though the principle of non-revictimization requires that victims be free from additional suffering during the legal process. Society's tendency to blame victims also poses a significant obstacle to the implementation of this principle. The way a victim dresses, behaves, or the circumstances surrounding the incident are often used as reasons to suggest that the victim contributed to the violence they experienced. This stigma discourages victims from reporting their cases, as they fear negative judgment and social exclusion, thereby depriving them of access to justice and dignified recovery. The lack of public understanding of victims' rights and the principle of non-revictimization further exacerbates the obstacles faced in ensuring justice for victims of sexual violence. In many cases, the surrounding community, which should ideally function as a primary source of moral encouragement, emotional reassurance, and social protection, fails to fulfill this crucial role. Instead of offering empathy and solidarity, members of the public often display ignorance toward the specific rights that victims are entitled to, such as the right to protection, confidentiality, and psychological safety throughout the legal process.

This lack of recognition transforms what should be a supportive environment into a hostile one. For example, victims are frequently met with suspicion, derogatory remarks, sarcasm, or open discrimination. Such negative social reactions do not merely represent individual insensitivity but reflect a broader culture of stigma that continues to silence survivors of sexual violence. These attitudes compound the psychosocial burden borne by victims, leaving them with heightened feelings of shame, fear, and isolation. Ultimately, this hostile social atmosphere discourages victims from pursuing justice, as the cost of reporting appears to outweigh the potential benefits. In addition to stigma within society, victims' socioeconomic conditions represent another critical barrier that undermines the implementation of the principle of non-revictimization. Victims who come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds face significant structural inequalities that limit their ability to access essential services such as legal aid, medical care, trauma counseling, and psychosocial support. The lack of financial resources often leaves these victims without the means to hire legal representation, pay for medical examinations, or secure professional accompaniment during court testimony. This lack of support magnifies their vulnerability throughout the investigative and judicial processes. Without adequate guidance and assistance, many victims struggle to understand their rights, to prepare for cross-examination, or even to articulate their experiences in a way that the justice system can accommodate.

The resulting power imbalance between victims and perpetrators, as well as between victims and legal institutions, contributes to feelings of helplessness and mistrust toward the state. In this way, poverty and structural inequality indirectly perpetuate revictimization, as the justice system becomes inaccessible to those who need it most. Moreover, the persistence of patriarchal cultural norms significantly intensifies these challenges. In many societies, patriarchal values dictate strict gender roles that often prioritize male dominance and female subordination. Within such contexts, sexual violence is frequently trivialized, excused, or even justified as part of male entitlement. At the same time, women who report abuse are scrutinized for their

behavior, clothing, or past relationships. This culture of victim-blaming not only shifts responsibility away from perpetrators but also reinforces a cycle in which victims are made to feel guilty for the violence committed against them. Victims who attempt to break the silence are frequently accused of tarnishing family honor, disrupting community harmony, or exaggerating their suffering for personal gain. Such cultural narratives silence survivors and force them into compliance with unjust systems, directly contradicting the principle of non-revictimization. The intersection of patriarchal culture, societal stigma, victim blaming, low public awareness, and structural socioeconomic barriers reveals the complexity of ensuring the fulfillment of victims' rights in cases of sexual violence.

These factors are not isolated but deeply interconnected, reinforcing one another in ways that make the reporting process both psychologically and materially burdensome. Even when progressive legal frameworks or policies exist to protect victims, their effectiveness is severely limited if the surrounding environment—comprising law enforcement agencies, local communities, and families—fails to internalize the principle of non-revictimization. In this sense, the principle cannot be achieved solely through the commitment of law enforcement officials, although their role is undeniably central. It also requires a holistic social transformation in which the community actively participates in creating safe, supportive, and stigma-free spaces for victims. Therefore, the challenges in implementing the principle of non-revictimization in the reporting process of sexual violence are multidimensional. They stem not only from deficiencies in law enforcement practices but also from deeper structural and cultural issues. Unless these underlying problems are addressed through a combination of public education, victim-centered legal reforms, the provision of accessible support services, and the dismantling of patriarchal norms, victims of sexual violence will continue to experience barriers to justice. Achieving dignified recovery and meaningful accountability thus demands a collective effort from the state, civil society, and the broader public to ensure that victims are not only legally protected but also socially supported throughout their pursuit of justice.

4. Conclusion

The implementation of the principle of non-revictimization in the handling of sexual violence cases continues to face significant challenges, despite its solid grounding in both national legislation and international legal instruments. While the principle was formulated to protect victims from further physical, psychological, and social suffering throughout the legal process, its application in practice remains far from ideal. Structural barriers such as the limited competence of law enforcement officials, insufficient application of trauma-informed practices, and the persistence of a rigid positivistic legal approach contribute to an environment that fails to prioritize the victim's well-being. At the same time, cultural obstacles—including patriarchal values, entrenched victim-blaming attitudes, and widespread social stigma—further exacerbate the risks of revictimization. These interrelated factors manifest in concrete practices such as repeated examinations, insensitive and confrontational questioning, breaches of confidentiality, and even distorted or dismissive interpretations of victims' statements. In addition, socioeconomic inequalities restrict victims' access to essential legal, medical, and psychosocial support, leaving them more vulnerable to traumatization and discouraging them from pursuing justice.

To ensure that the principle of non-revictimization becomes not merely a normative aspiration but a lived reality, systemic and multidimensional reforms are indispensable. Strengthening the legal framework must be complemented by state institutions' genuine commitment to enforcing victim-centered procedures. Law enforcement officers and judicial actors should be trained in trauma-informed practices that emphasize empathy, confidentiality, and sensitivity in communication. Equally important is the establishment of integrated support systems that guarantee victims' access to psychological counseling, medical treatment, legal aid, and social assistance throughout the legal process. Beyond institutional reforms, broad-based community involvement is critical to dismantle stigma, challenging patriarchal narratives, and foster environments that affirm rather than marginalize survivors. Ultimately, protecting victims of sexual violence from revictimization demands a holistic paradigm shift, one that recognizes the pursuit of justice as inseparable from the restoration of dignity and the safeguarding of human rights. Only through comprehensive reforms that combine legal, institutional, and cultural transformation can the justice system truly fulfill its role in ensuring accountability for perpetrators while upholding the dignity, security, and recovery of survivors. In this way, the principle of non-revictimization can move beyond legal doctrine to become an operational reality that guarantees meaningful justice for victims of sexual violence.

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