

**CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE, CAPITALISM, PATRIARCHY AND
RESISTANCE: A STUDY OF WOMAN'S EXPERIENCES
IN ONE VILLAGE, WEST JAVA PROVINCE, INDONESIA**

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ABSTRACT

Sexual abuse of children, especially girls, is a form of both violence against children and violence against women, which is widespread in many societies in the world, including Indonesia. The purpose of this study is to understand the nature and form of child sexual abuse in Indonesia, its effects on women and their resistance to it, and why it happens. Based on feminist ethnography methodology, I employed participant and non-participant observation, study-site mapping, key informant interview, oral history, in-depth interview and personal narrative.

In Indonesia child sexual abuse takes on a different form than is presented in the West. Of the 18 women I interviewed, mostly from poor families, eight had experienced forced marriage and ten had experienced forced first intercourse, and four of these had experienced both. Others had experience date / acquaintance rape and child trafficking

Child sexual abuse experiences exist as a result of the interplay between capitalism, gender ideology, culture and patriarchal oppression. The harmful experiences of these women created physical, psychological, social and medical consequences. But they tried to resist and were not silent at all. They resisted through many kinds of action, from silence to symbolic acts and languages as well as women's agency. In their negotiation and capacity to resist they emerged as agents of social transformation as well as agent for themselves.

It is recommended that reproductive and sexual health and rights should be considered as the main component of the family planning program in order to increase women's well-being. Also, there is need of a community-based educational program to strengthen women's awareness related to the issues of gender and reproductive and sexual health and rights. In addition, the Indonesian government should strictly enforce the law protecting girls from sexual abuse.

KEY WORDS: CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE/ CAPITALISM/ PATRIARCHY/ RESISTANCE/ INDONESIA

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